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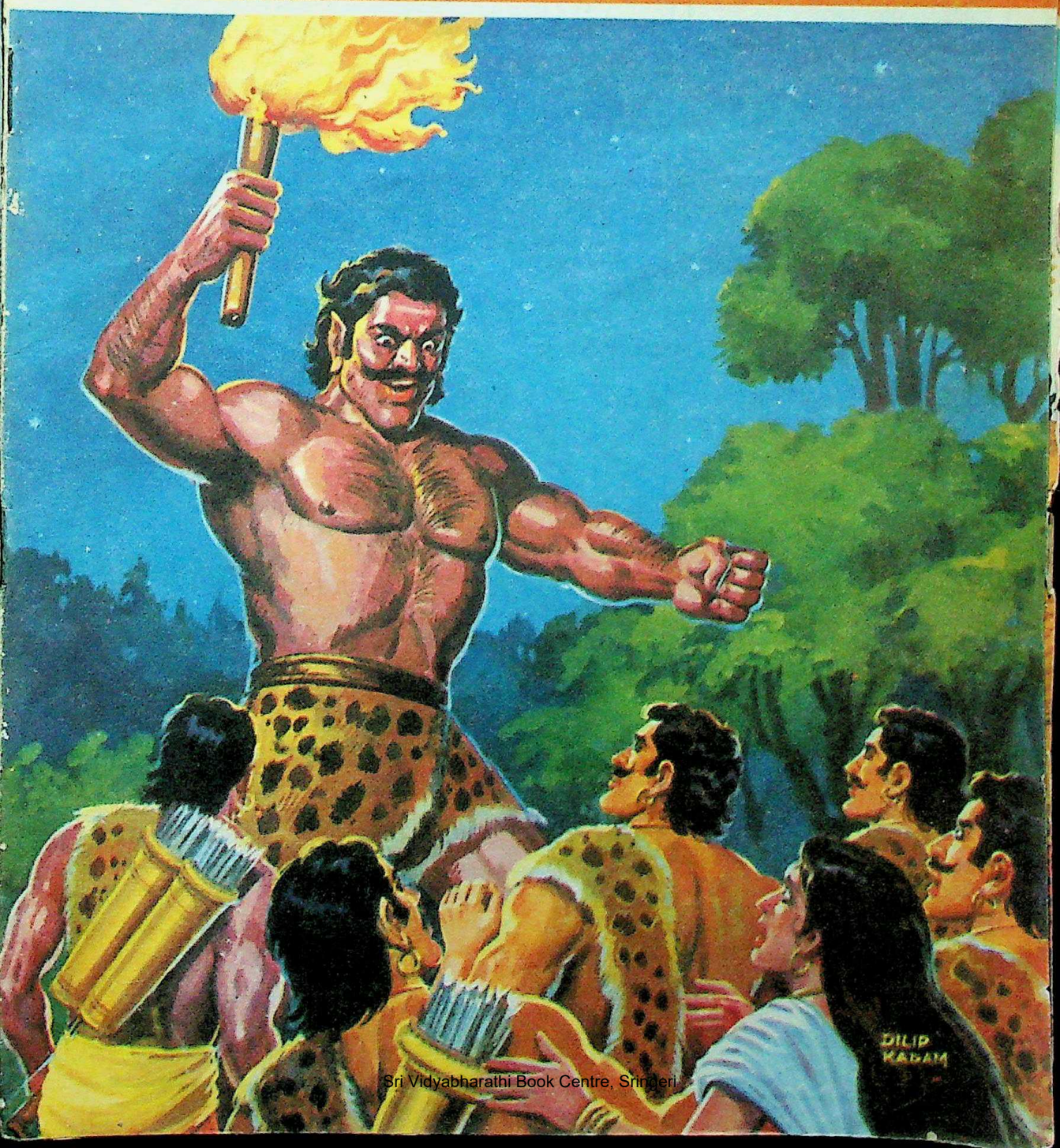
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 365 Rs. 4/-

Mahabharata-19

The Pandavas in the Forest



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Amar Chitra Katha
No.365 September 15, 1986

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

MAHABHARATA

Veda Vyasa's Epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself.

The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya—great-grandson of Vyasa—and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a 12-year-long snake sacrifice).

The eighteenth session of our presentation of Vaishampayana's recital of Vyasa's Mahabharata narrated how, bound by his Dharma, Yudhishthira consented to gamble, how he was defeated by Shakuni who used foul means at the game of dice and how Duhshasana tried to disrobe Draupadi in the assembly which enraged Bheema to take terrible vows of destroying the Kuru princes in war. Our rendition of this session concluded with the banishment of the Pandavas to the forest for thirteen years.

Revision in Price

Because of the rising cost of paper and printing and the increasing wage bill, we are left with no alternative except to revise the price of Amar Chitra Katha to Rs. 5.00 with effect from the issue No. 366 dated October, 1, 1986. We are sure readers will bear with us. However, with the issue dated October 1, 1986, we will once again use better paper for the cover.

Editor

OUR FORTHCOMING TITLES :

October 1, 1986	October 15, 1986
PATALI—PUTRA	Mahabharata—20 ARJUNA'S QUEST FOR WEAPONS

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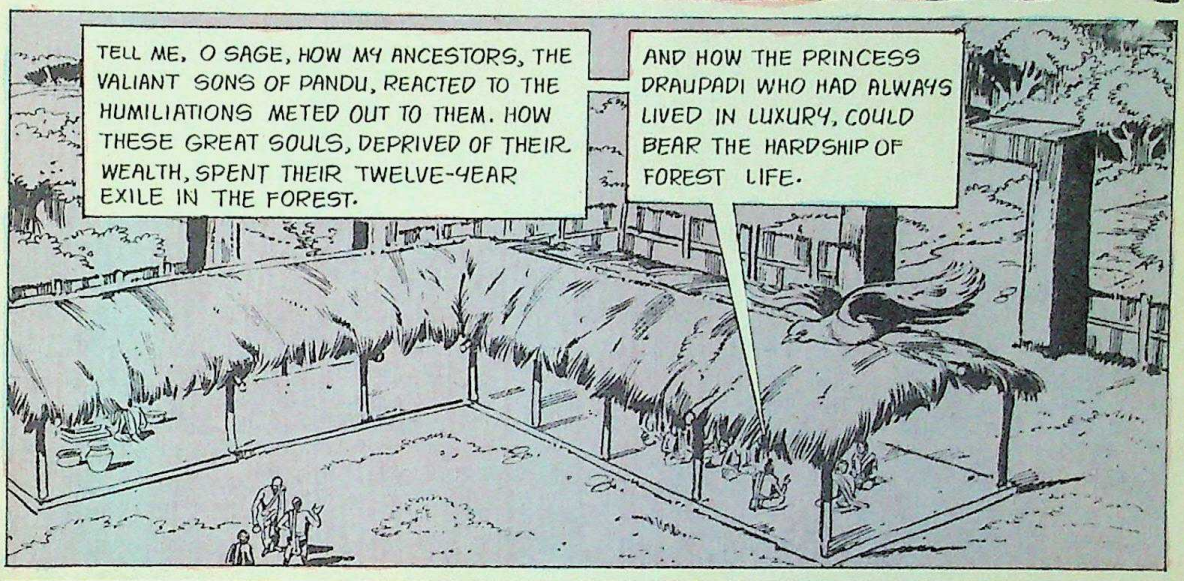
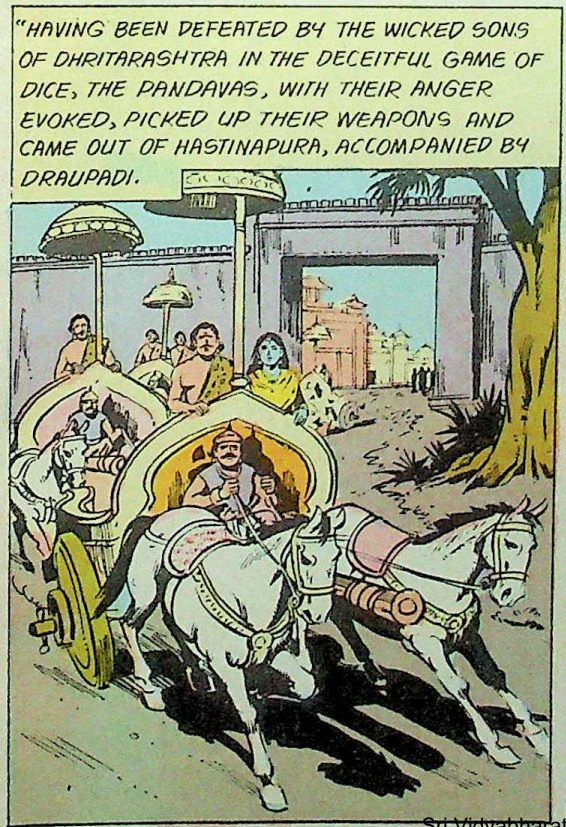
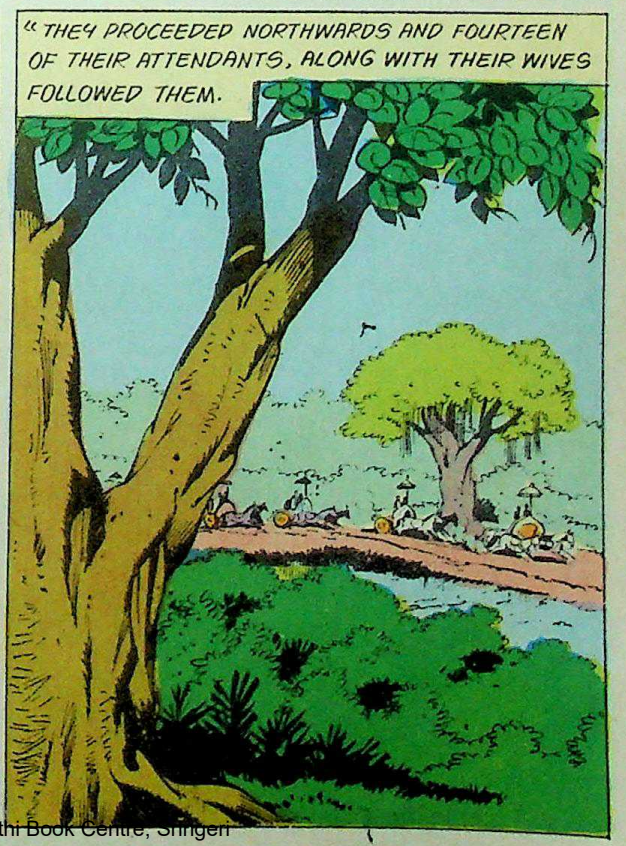
Mahabharata – 19

THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST







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"ON HEARING THE FATE OF THE PANDAVAS, THE CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA CAME OUT OF THEIR HOMES. IN THEIR SORROW AND ANGER, THEY DID NOT SPARE IN THEIR CRITICISM EVEN BHEESHMA, VIDURA, DRONA AND KRIPA.

"AND THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER:

THE SINNER DURYODHANA, AIDED BY SHAKUNI AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF KARNA AND DUHSHASANA, WANTS TO RULE OVER US.

SO OUR FAMILIES, OUR HOUSES AND BELONGINGS WILL NO LONGER REMAIN PROTECTED.

WHEN AN EVIL MAN WANTS TO RULE WITH THE HELP OF OTHER EVIL MEN, HOW CAN ONE'S FAMILY HONOUR BE GUARDED? HOW CAN OUR HERITAGE, RELIGION AND HAPPINESS BE PRESERVED?

IT IS CERTAIN THAT UNDER DURYODHANA'S RULE, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL COME TO A SORRY END.

SO LET US ACCOMPANY THE KIND-HEARTED, RIGHTEOUS AND VALOROUS PANDAVAS WHEREVER THEY GO.

"SAYING THIS, THE CITIZENS WENT UP TO THE PANDAVAS AND SAID:

WE ARE DISTRESSED THAT YOU ARE BEING BANISHED FROM YOUR KINGDOM THROUGH THE TREACHERY OF YOUR CRUEL ENEMIES.

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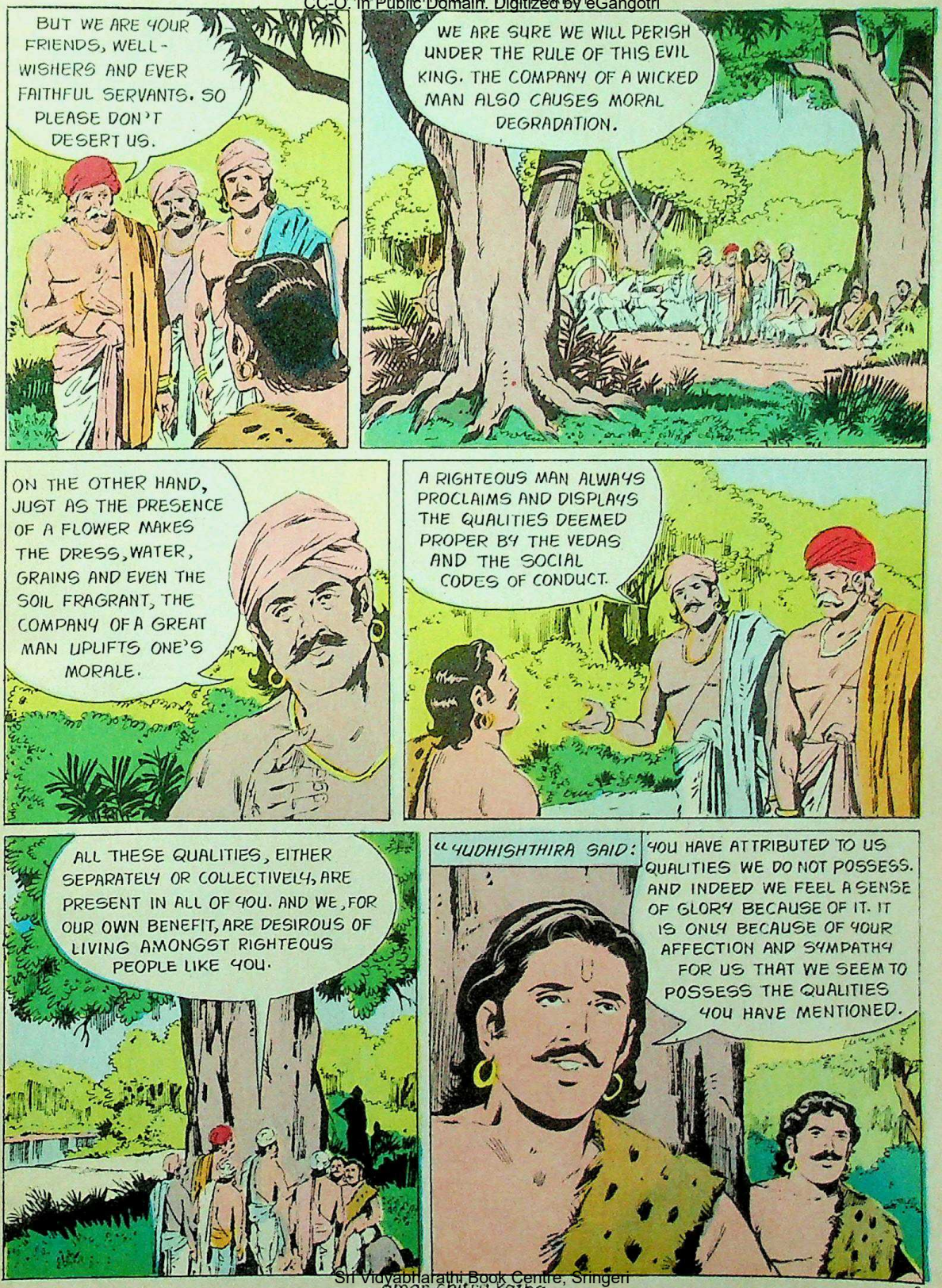

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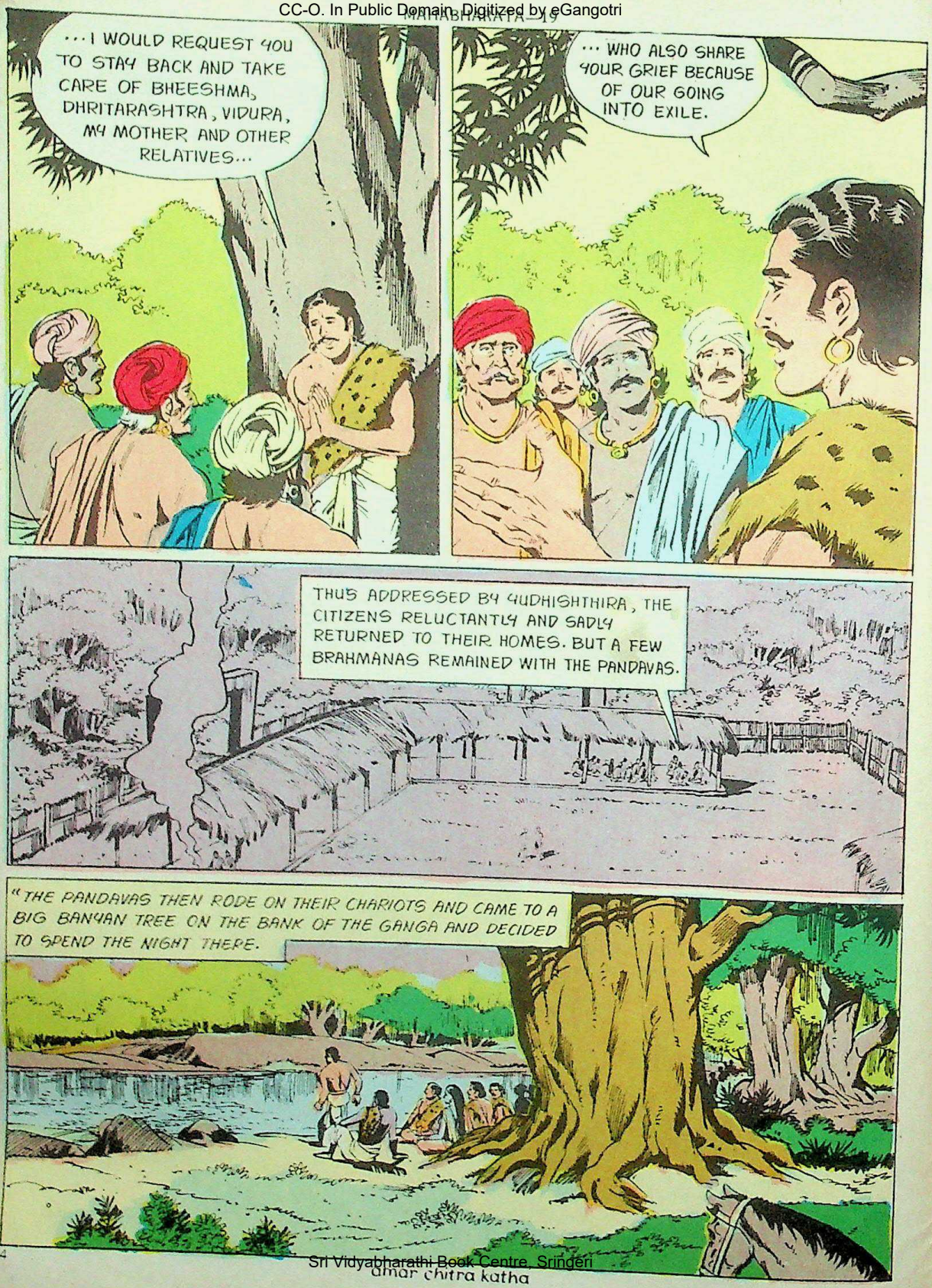

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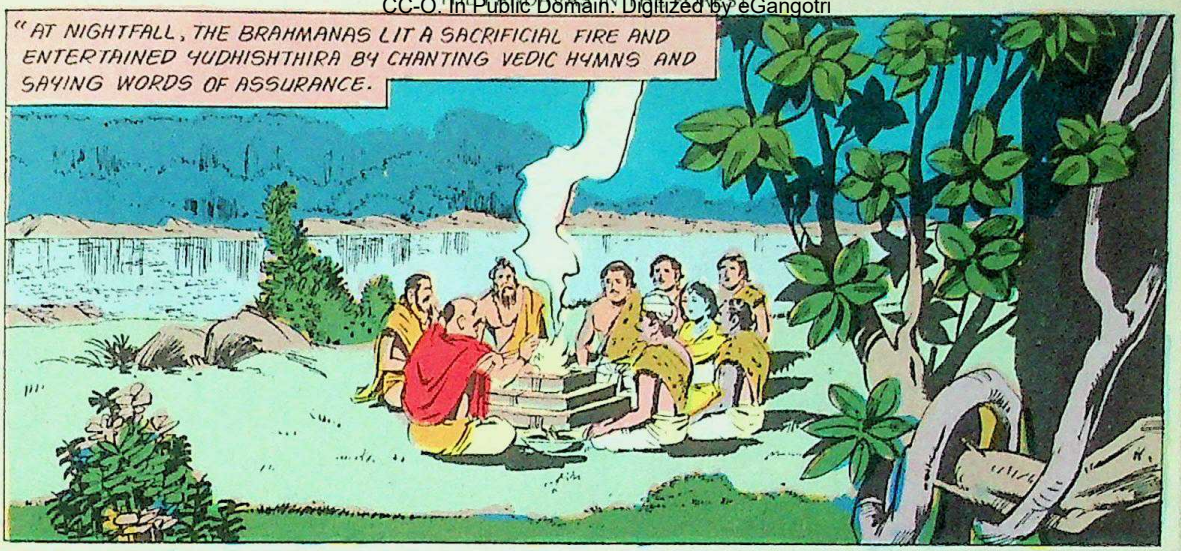

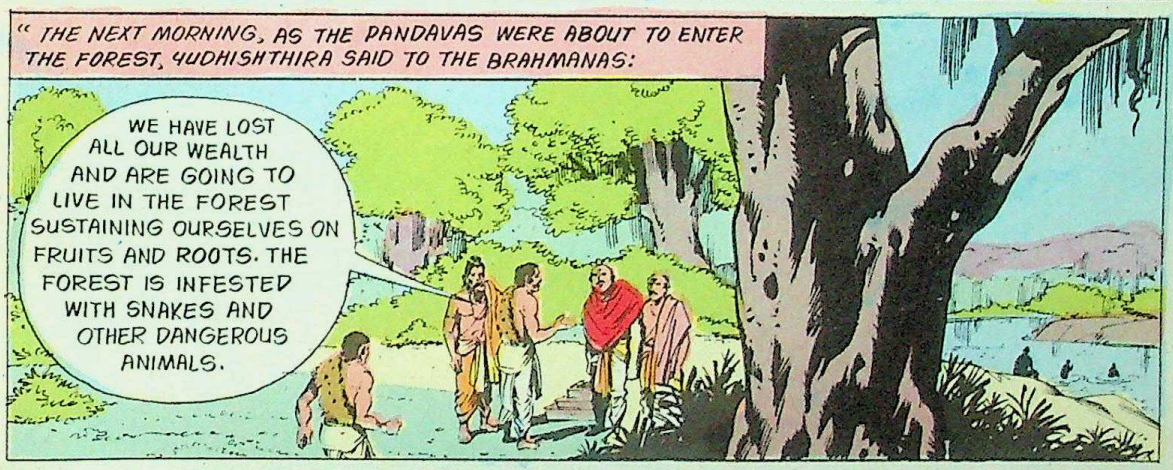

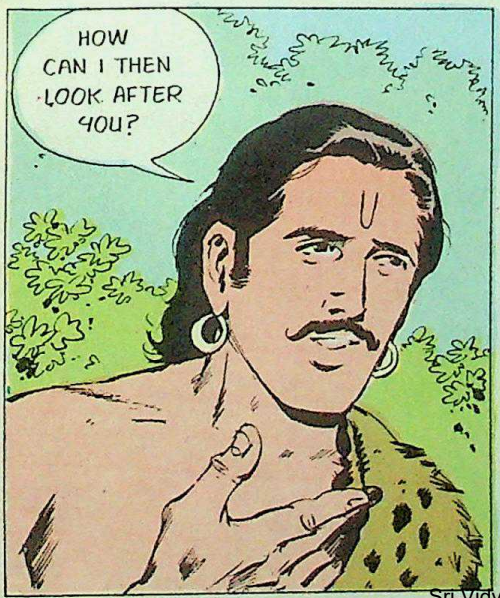

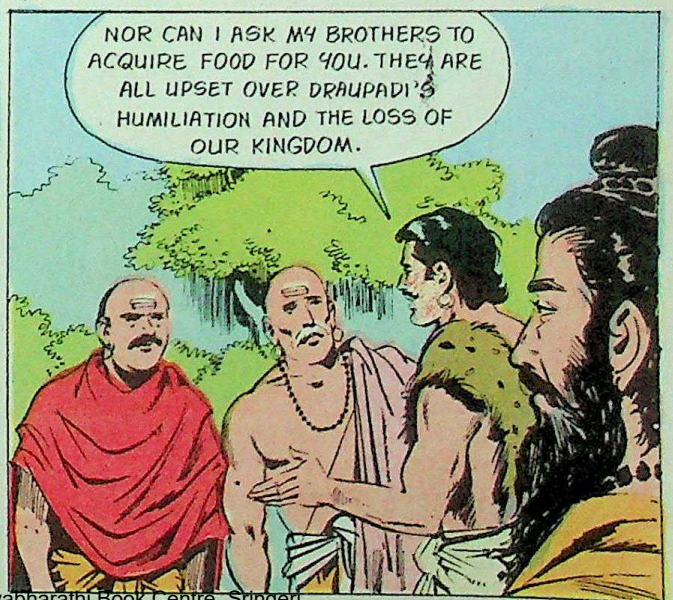

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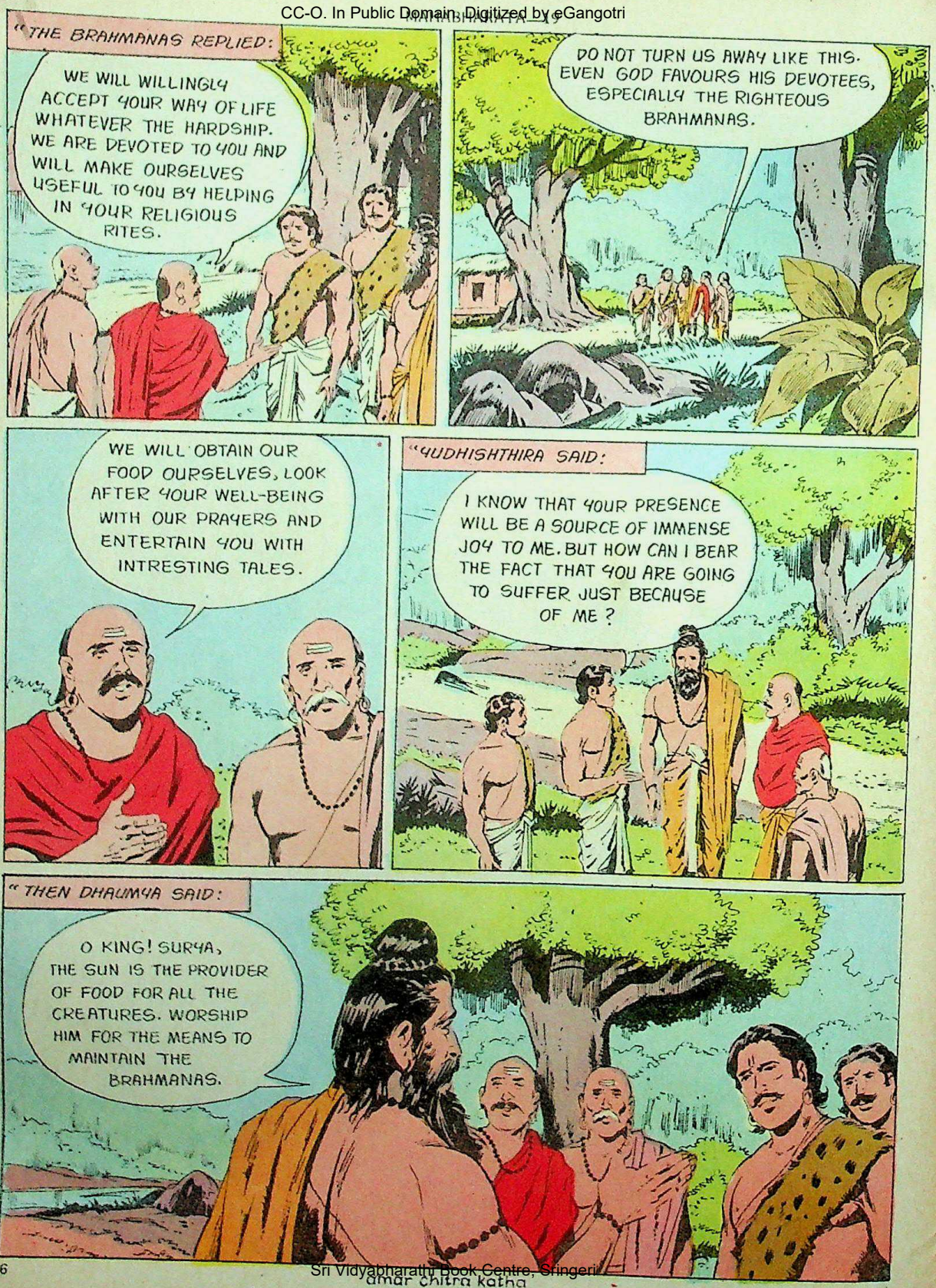

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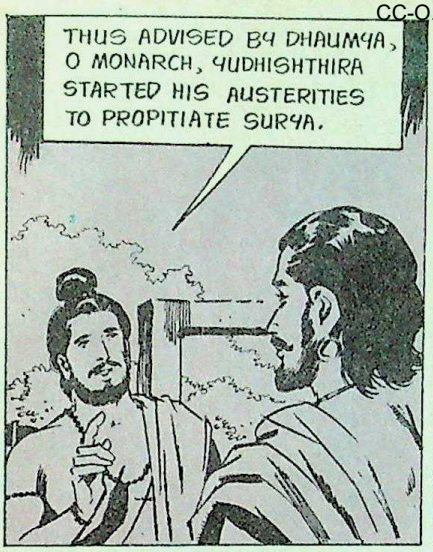

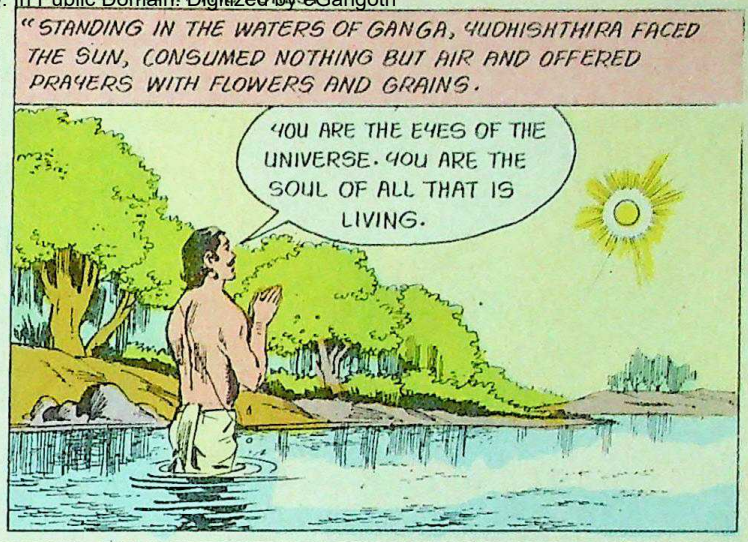

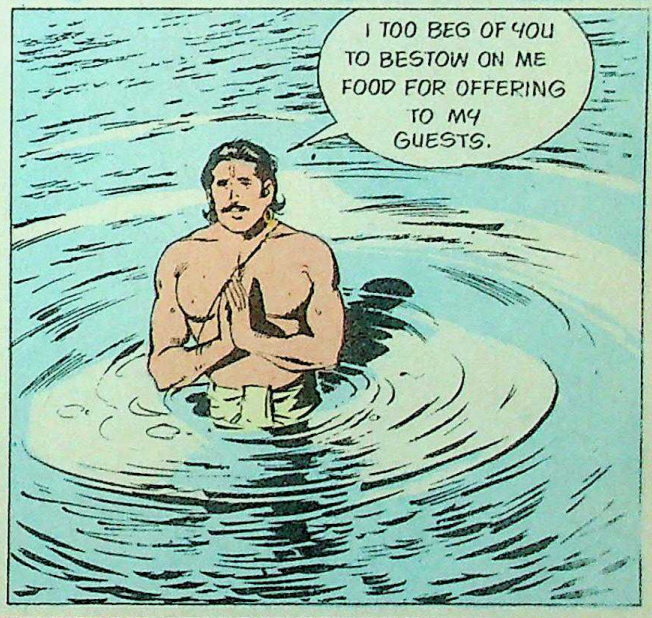

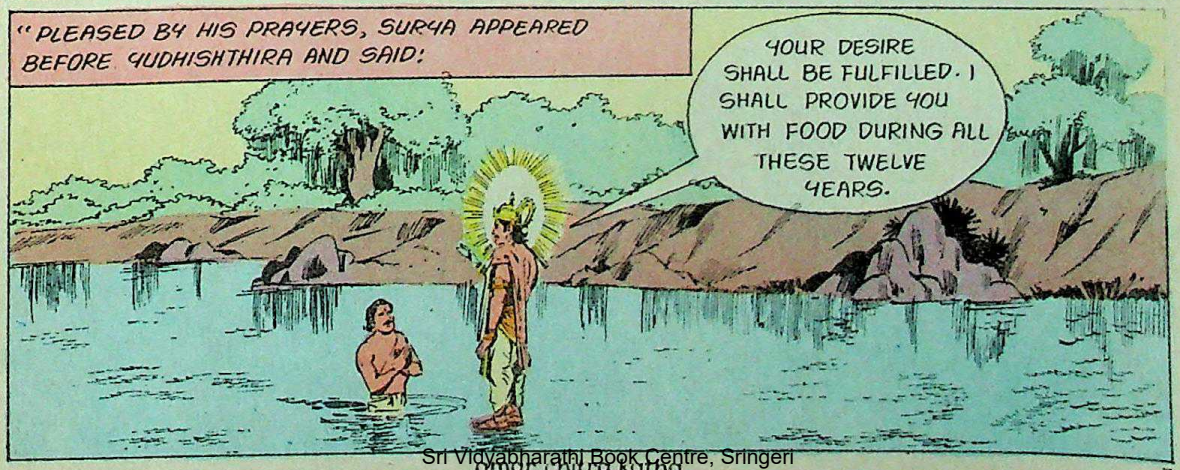

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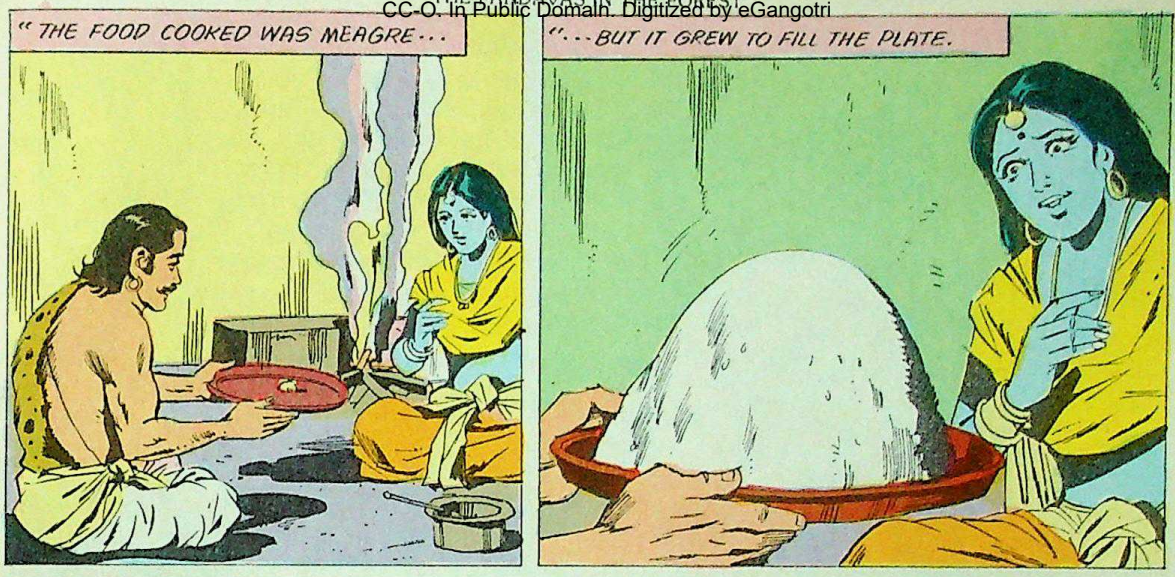

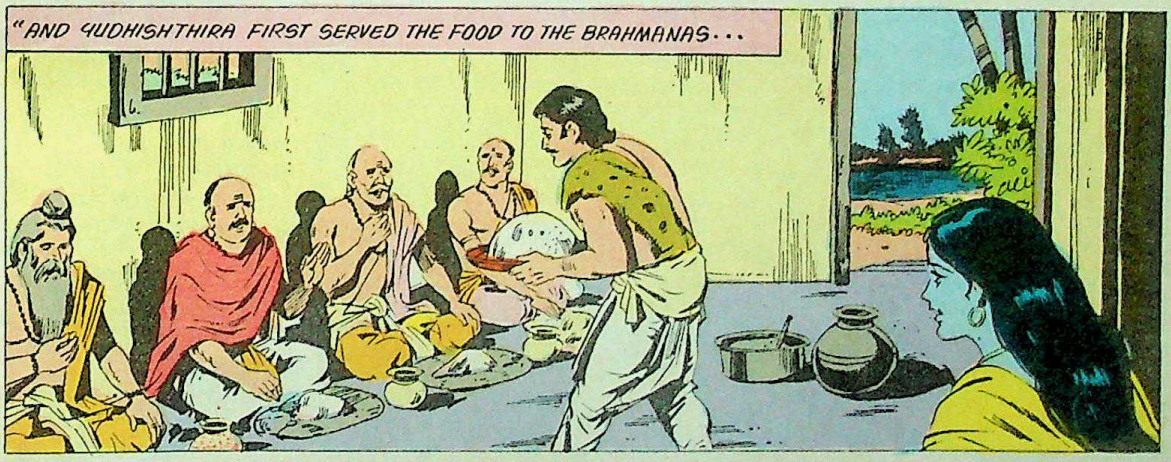

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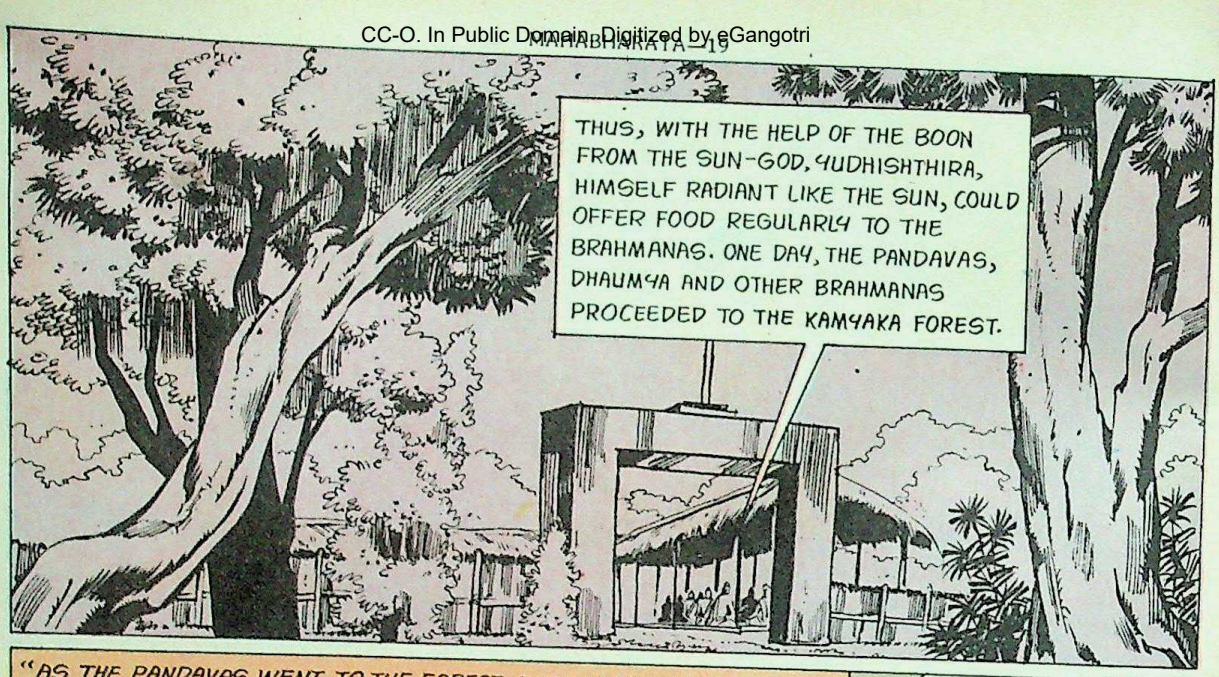

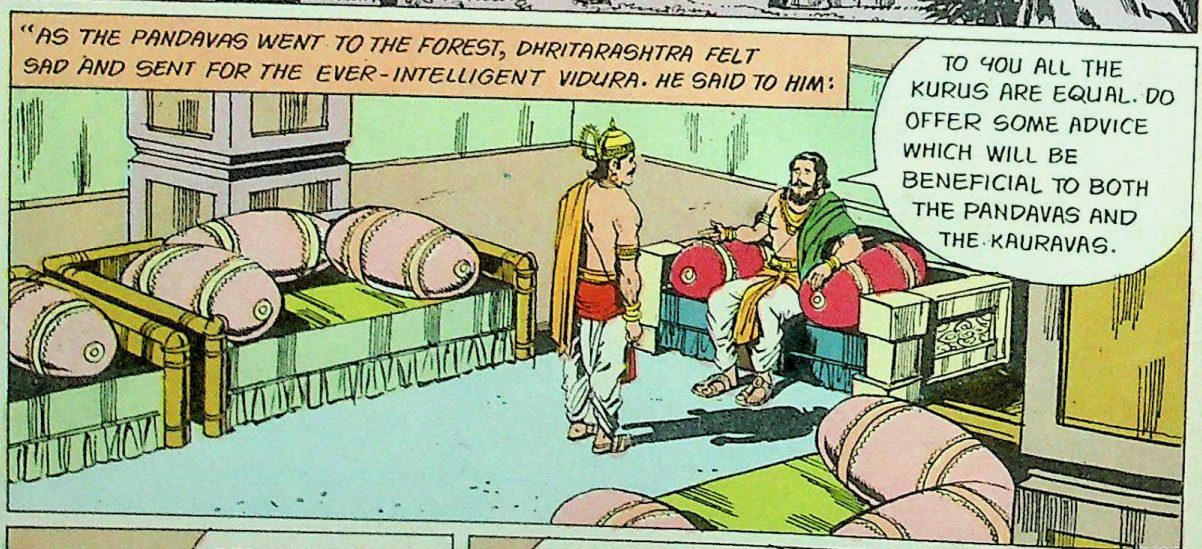

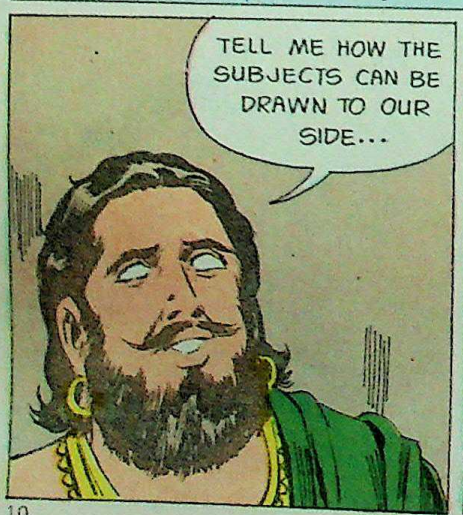

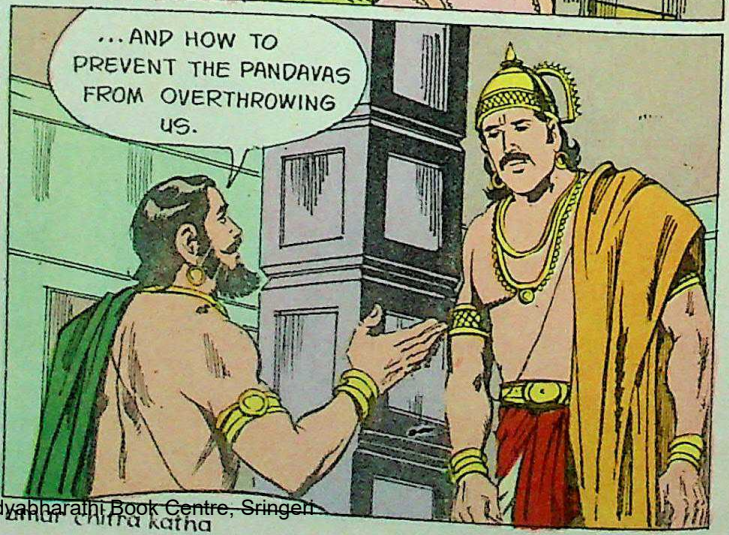

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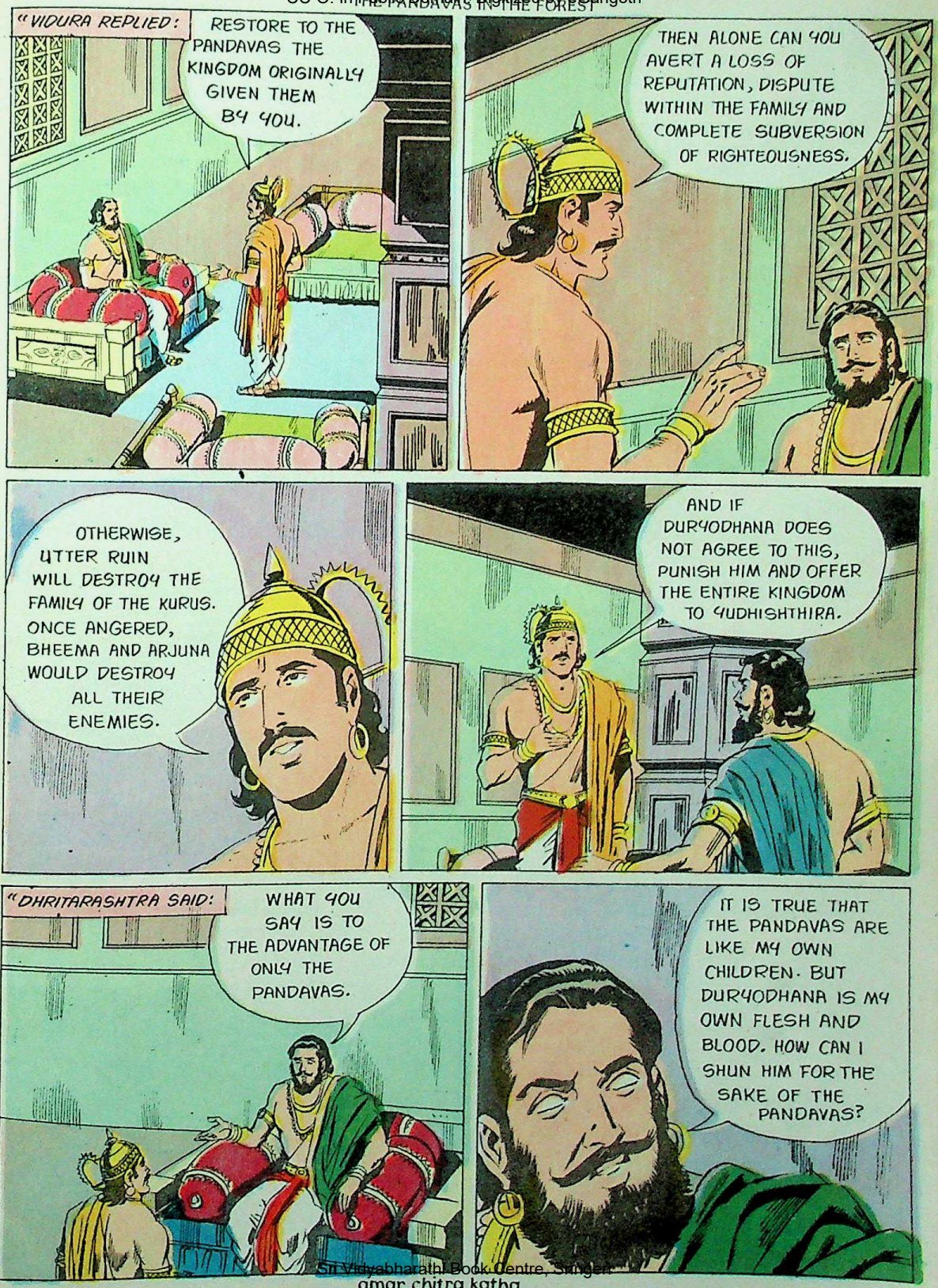

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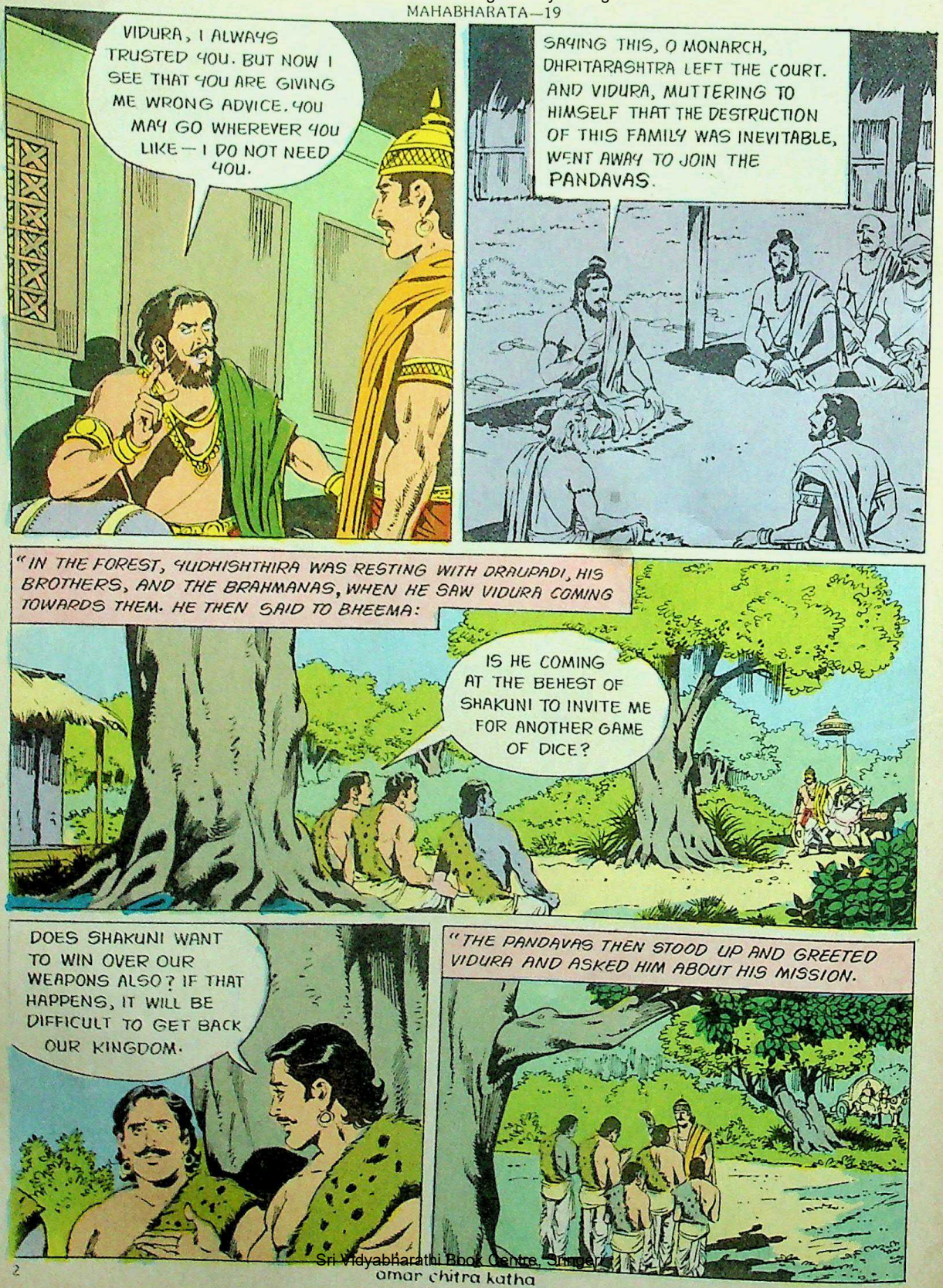

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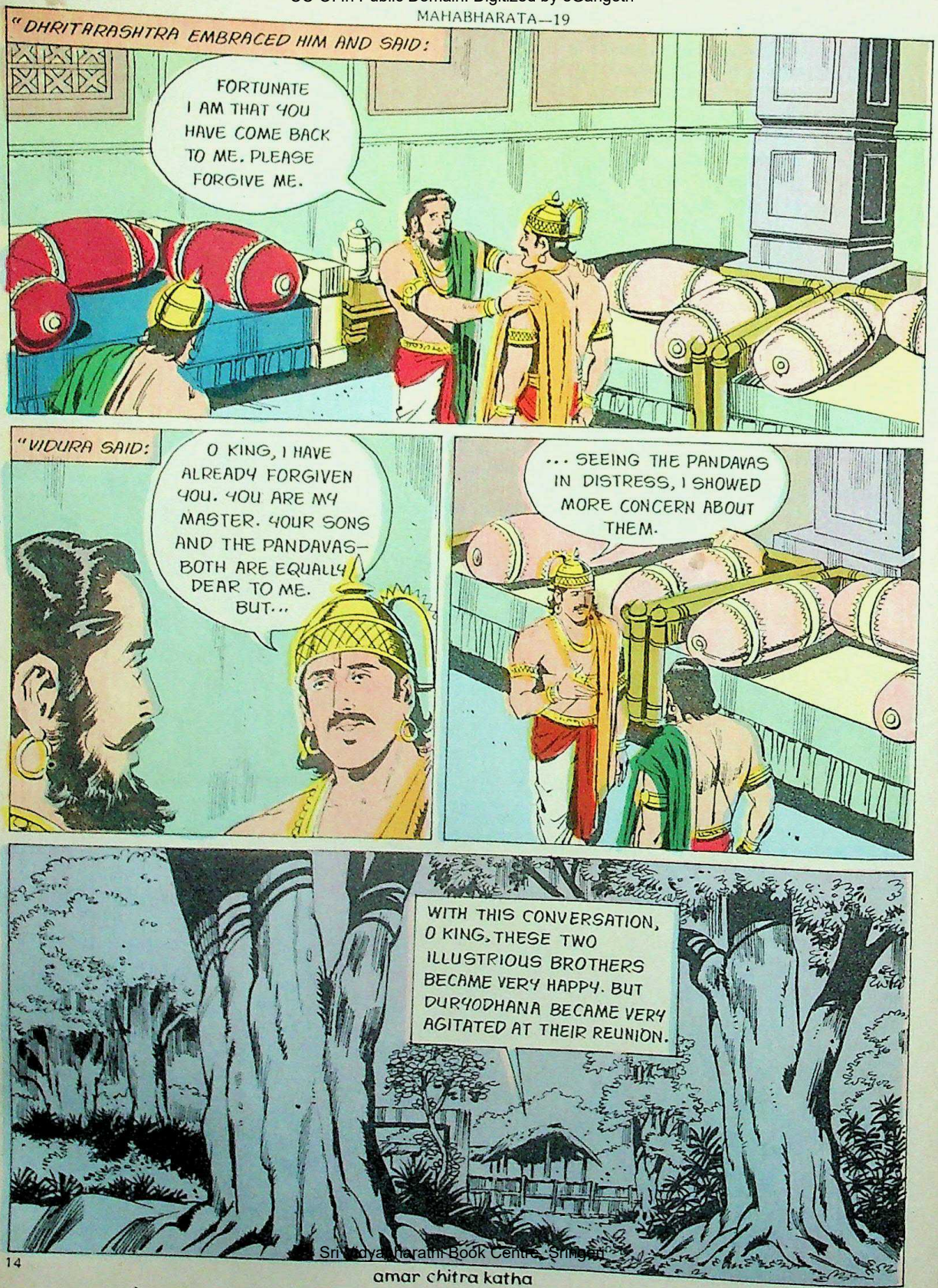

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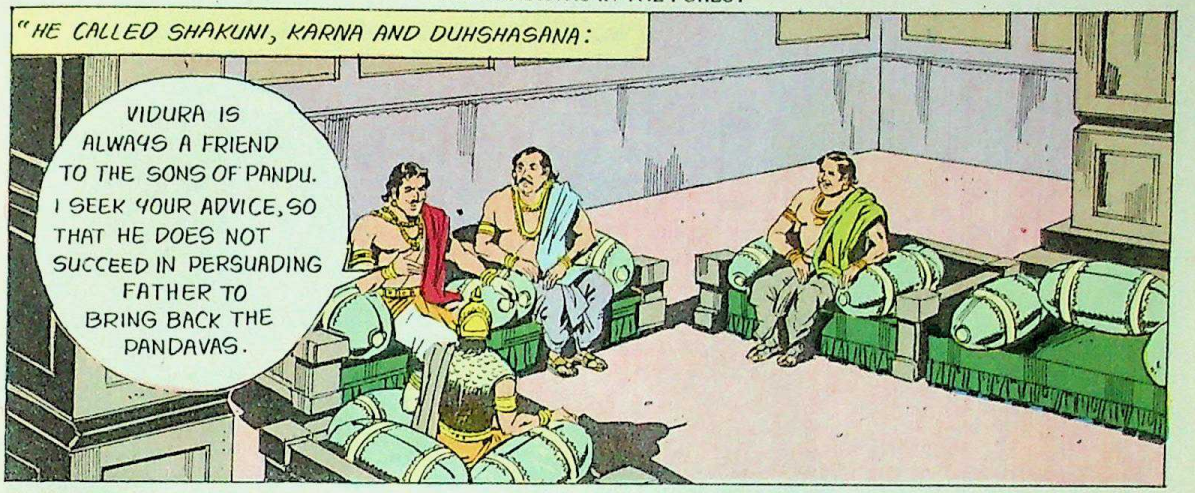

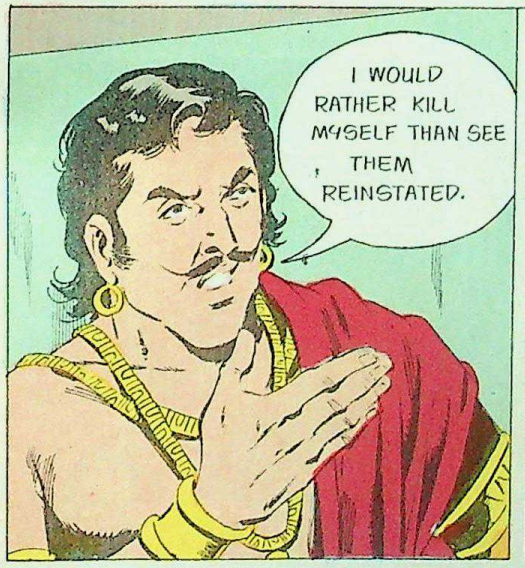

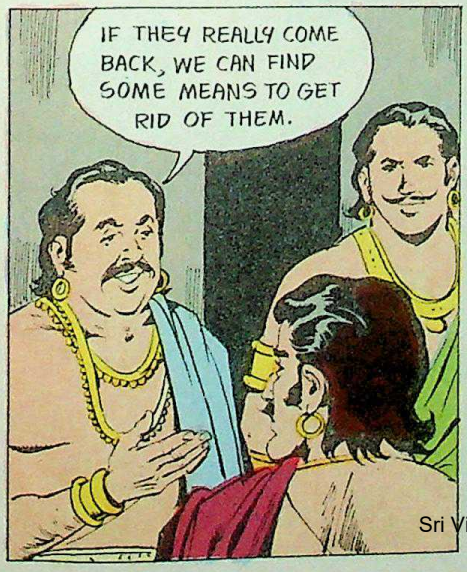

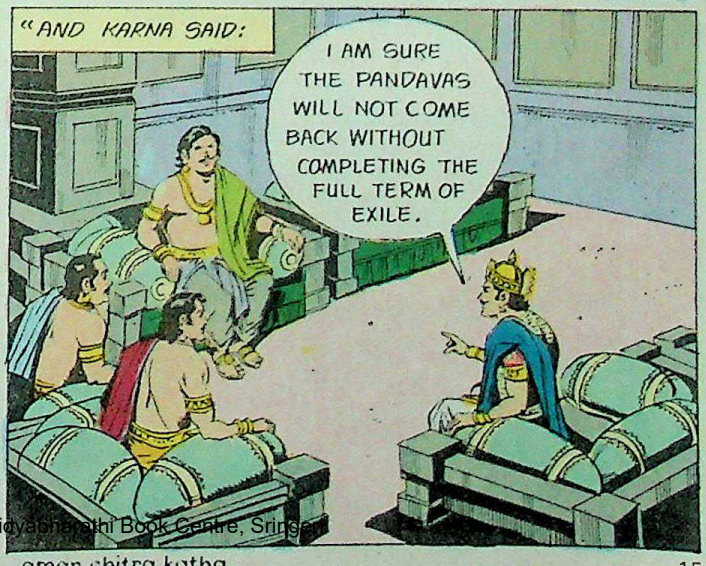

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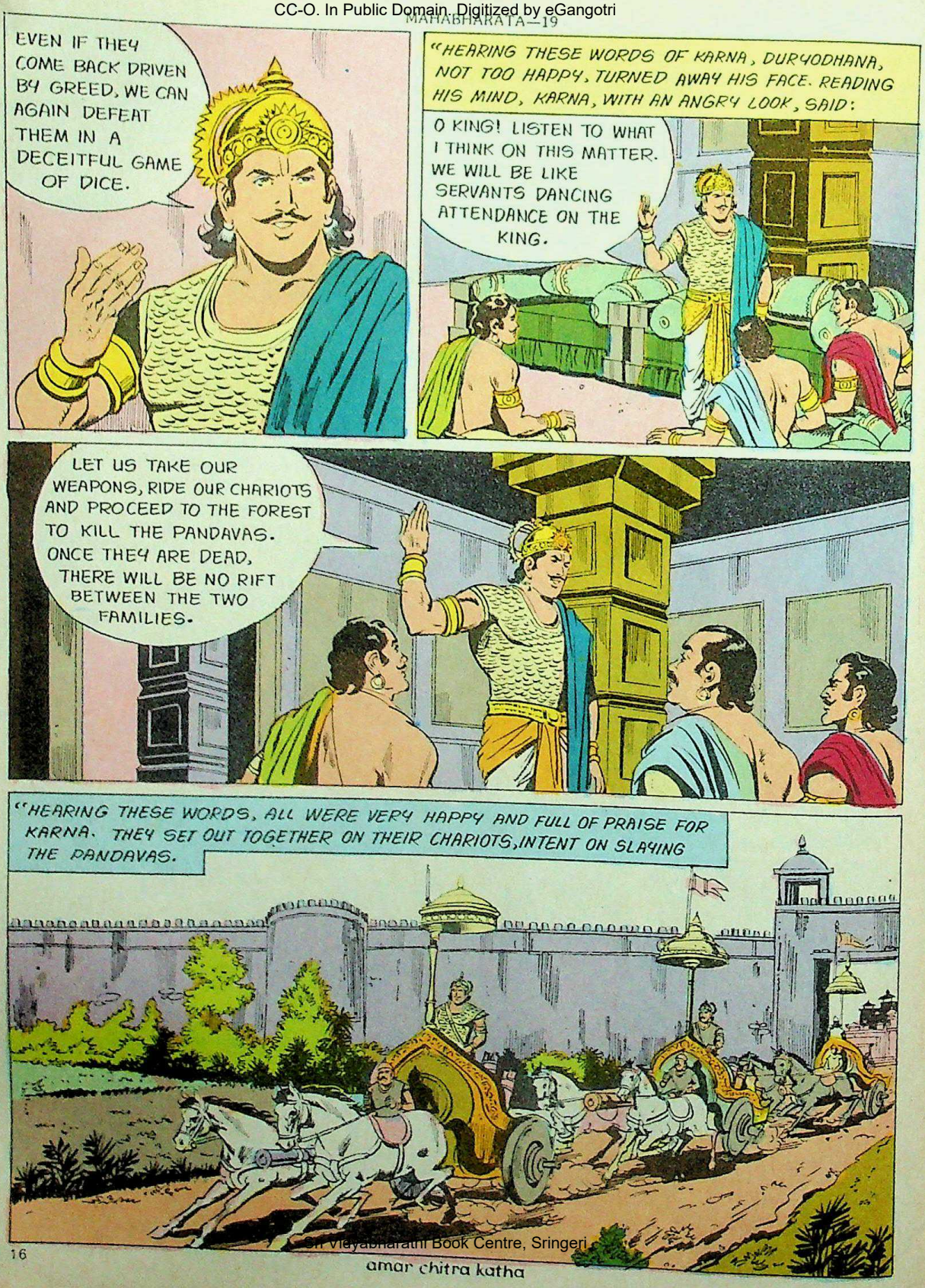

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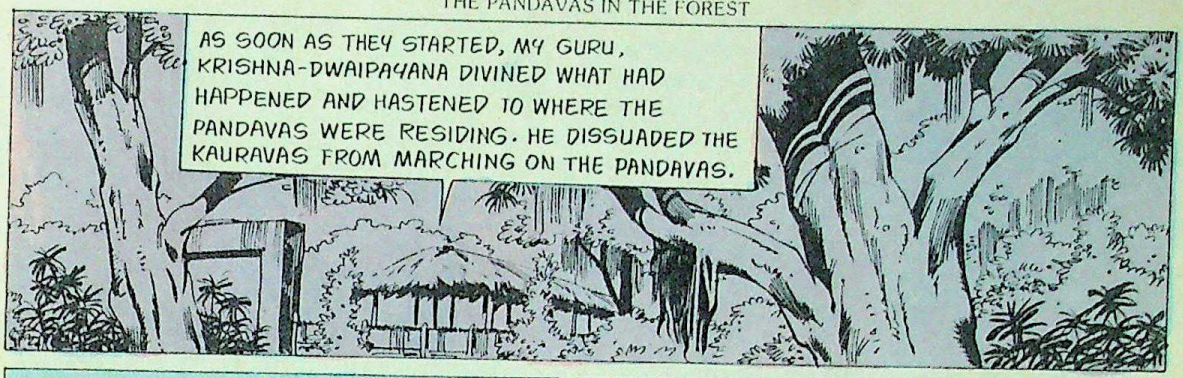
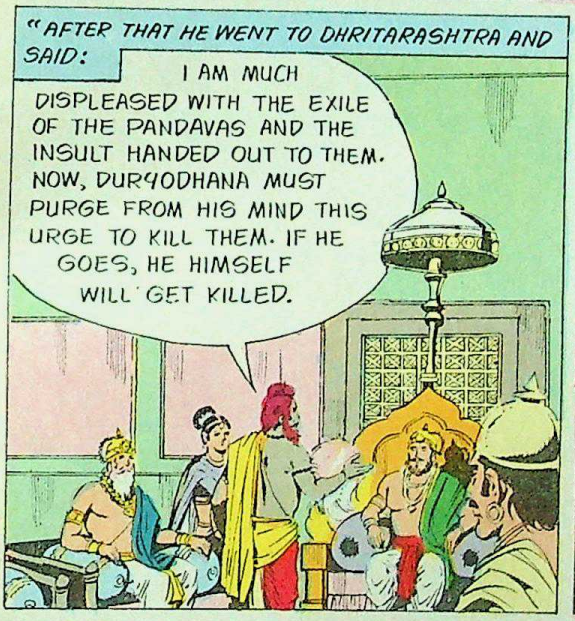
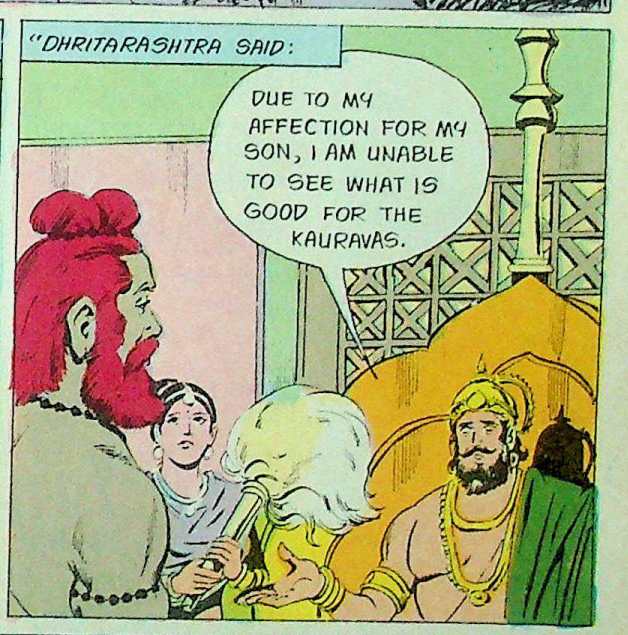
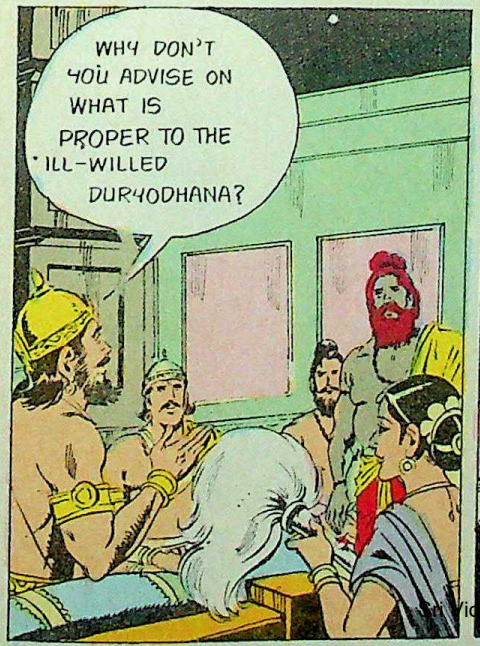
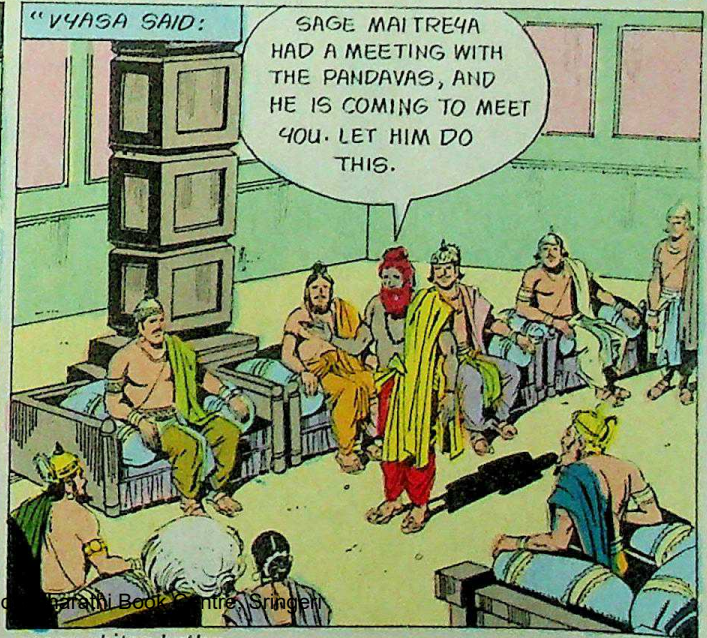

AS SOON AS THEY STARTED, MY GURU, KRISHNA-DWAIPAYANA DIVINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND HASTENED TO WHERE THE PANDAVAS WERE RESIDING. HE DISSUADED THE KAURAVAS FROM MARCHING ON THE PANDAVAS.


"AFTER THAT HE WENT TO DHRITARASHTRA AND SAID:
I AM MUCH DISPLEASED WITH THE EXILE OF THE PANDAVAS AND THE INSULT HANDED OUT TO THEM. NOW, DURYODHANA MUST PURGE FROM HIS MIND THIS URGE TO KILL THEM. IF HE GOES, HE HIMSELF WILL GET KILLED.


"DHRITARASHTRA SAID:
DUE TO MY AFFECTION FOR MY SON, I AM UNABLE TO SEE WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE KAURAVAS.


WHY DON'T YOU ADVISE ON WHAT IS PROPER TO THE ILL-WILLED DURYODHANA?


"VYASA SAID:
SAGE MAITREYA HAD A MEETING WITH THE PANDAVAS, AND HE IS COMING TO MEET YOU. LET HIM DO THIS.

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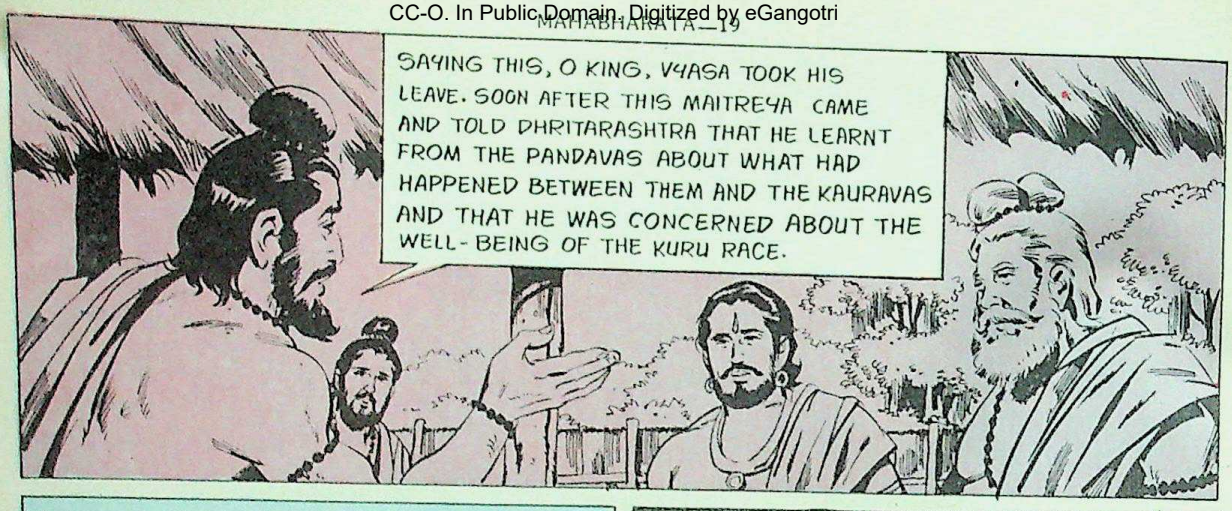

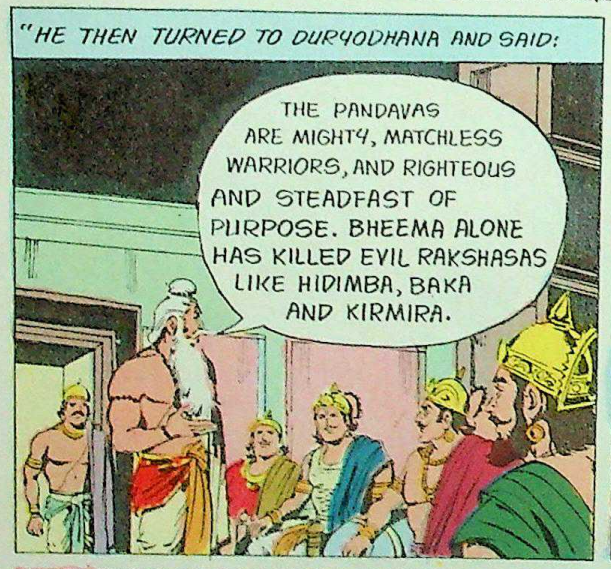

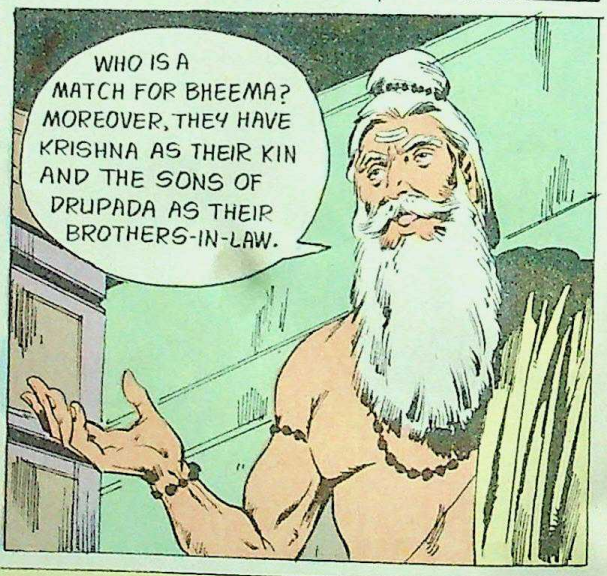

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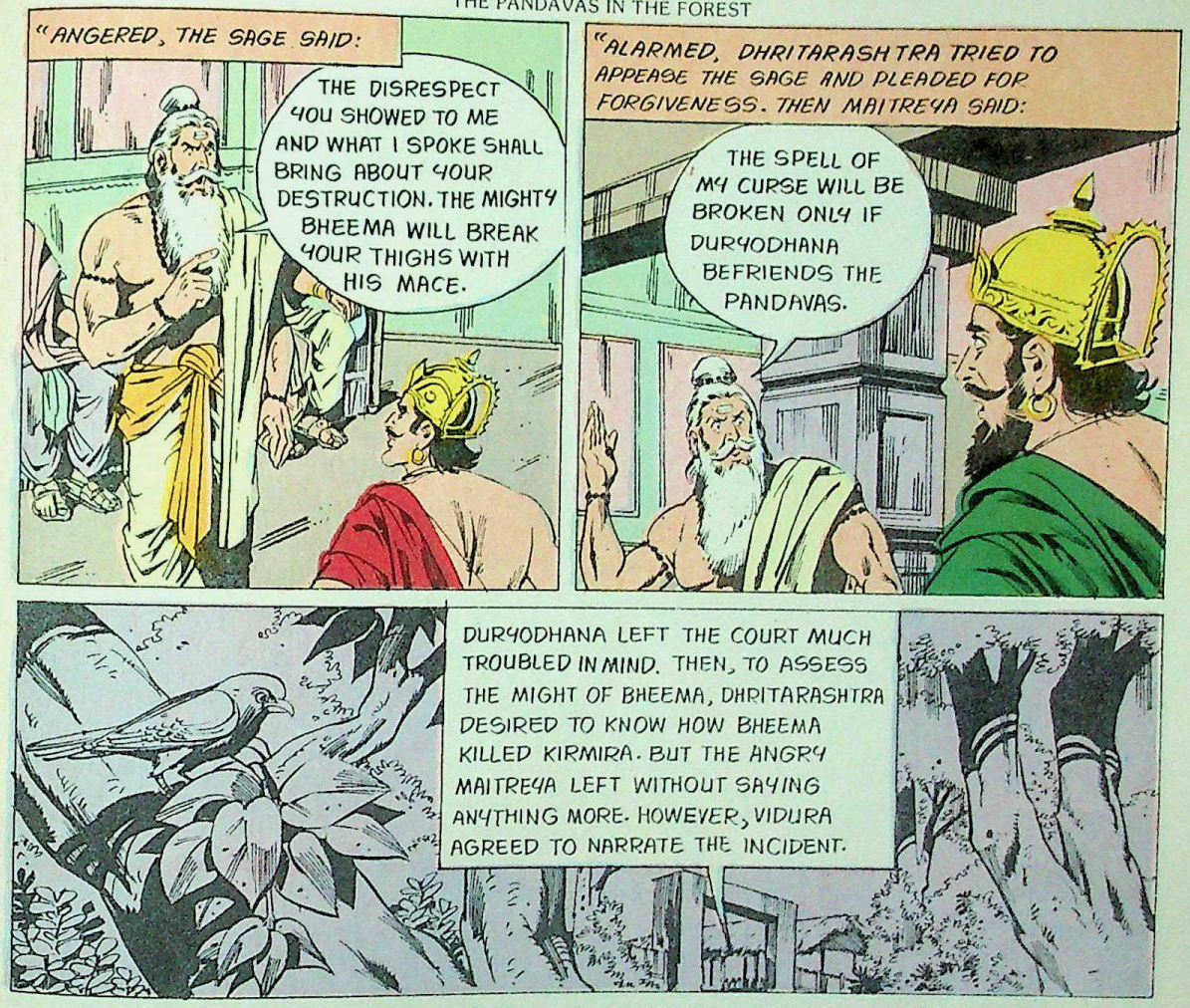

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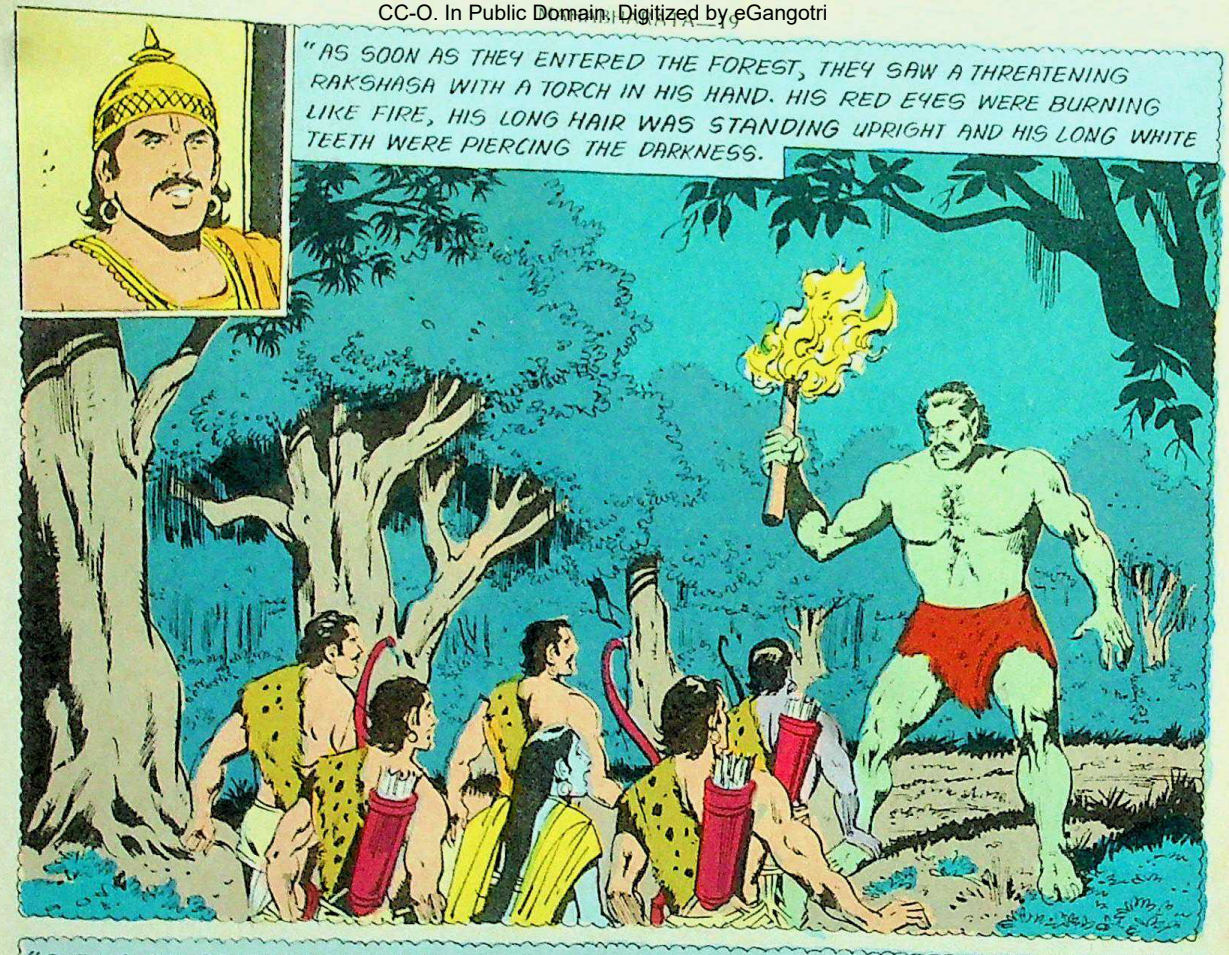

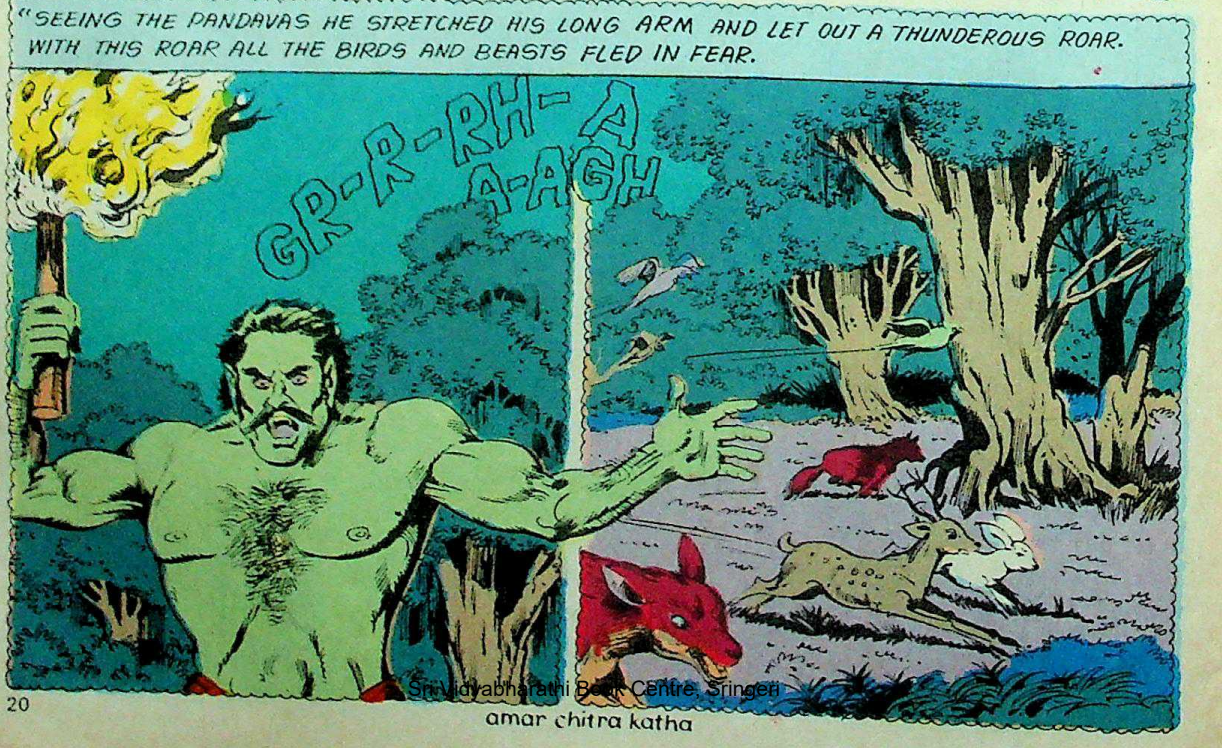

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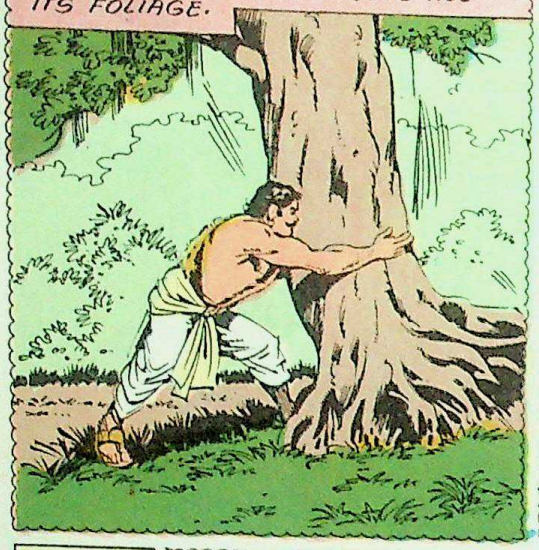
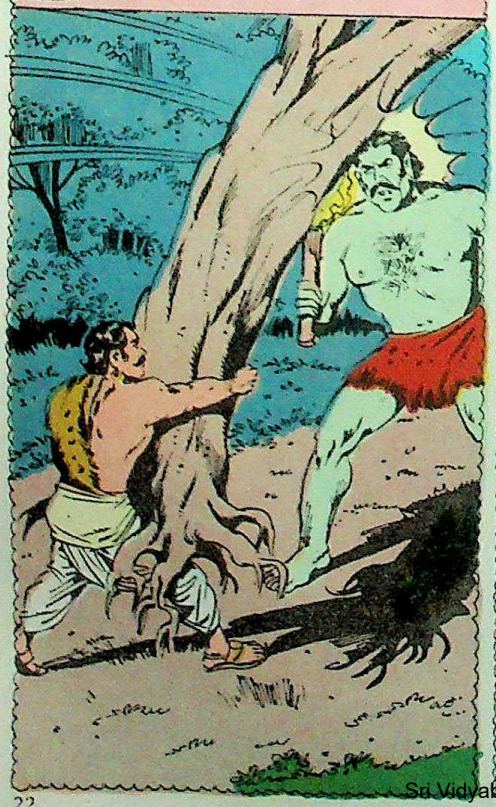
"THEN THE MIGHTY BHEEMA UPROOTED A HUGE TREE AND REMOVED ALL ITS FOLIAGE.

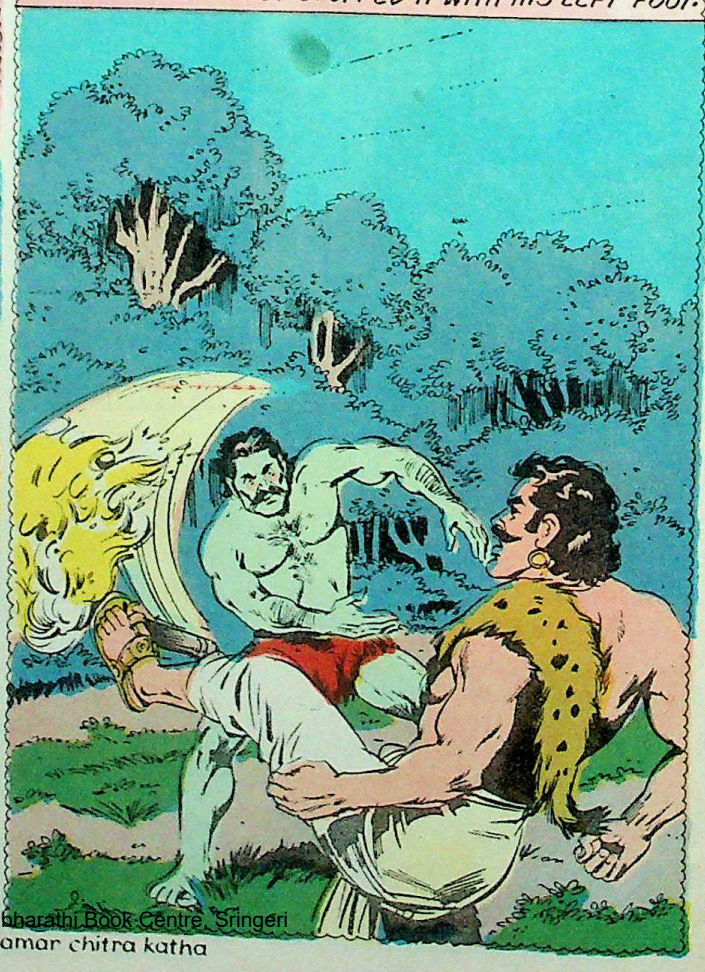


"ARJUNA ALSO READIED HIS GANDEEVA BOW.

"BHEEMA STOPPED ARJUNA, AND THEN GOING FORWARD HIT THE RAKSHASA ON HIS HEAD WITH THE MIGHT OF INDRA WIELDING HIS THUNDERBOLT.



"UNMOVED, THE RAKSHASA HURLED THE TORCH AT BHEEMA WHO EASILY STOPPED IT WITH HIS LEFT FOOT.



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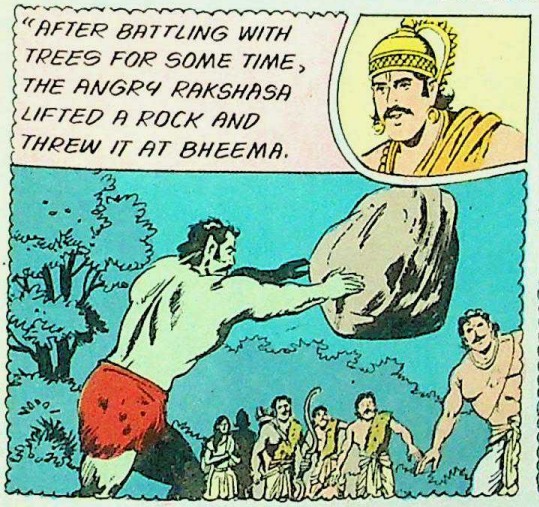
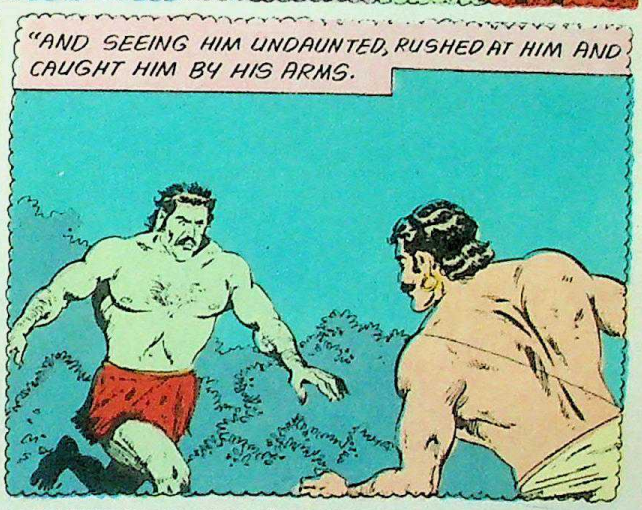
"KIRMIRA TOO UPROOTED A TREE. THE TWO FOUGHT EACH OTHER WITH TREES AS WEAPONS. AND THE TREES BROKE AS REEDS IN THE COURSE OF THE FIGHT.

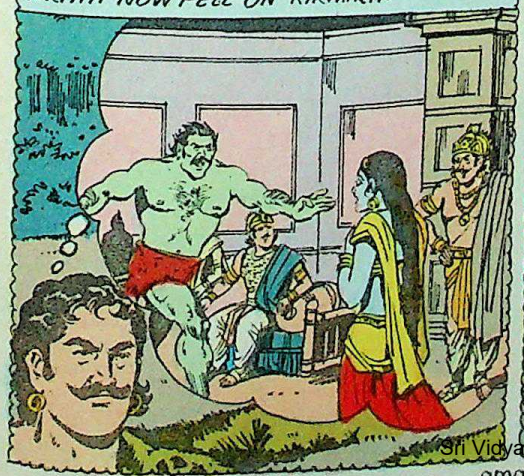
"AFTER BATTLING WITH TREES FOR SOME TIME, THE ANGRY RAKSHASA LIFTED A ROCK AND THREW IT AT BHEEMA.



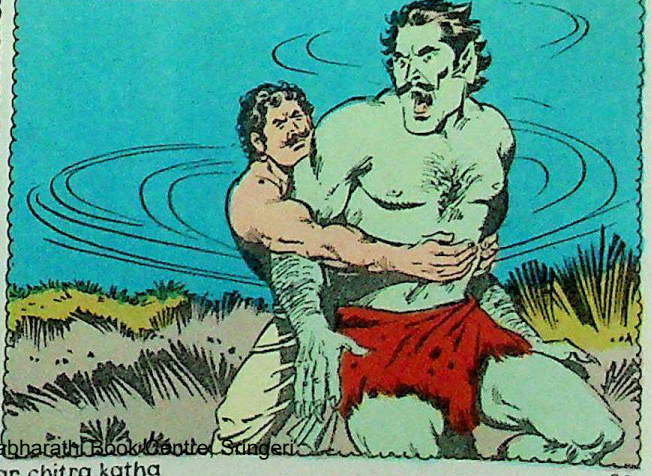
"AND SEEING HIM UNDAUNTED, RUSHED AT HIM AND CAUGHT HIM BY HIS ARMS.



"BHEEMA WAS STILL BURNING WITH ANGER BECAUSE OF THE INSULTS HEAPED ON DRAUPADI BY DURYODHANA. HIS WHOLE WRATH NOW FELL ON KIRMIRA.



" HE CAUGHT KIRMIRA BY HIS WAIST AND SHOOK HIM AND THE RAKSHASA TREMBLED LIKE A TREE IN A STORM.



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"AS HE TRIED TO CRUSH KIRMIRA IN HIS ARMS, THE RAKSHASA SCREAMED IN PAIN.

OH-MOH-GTA-OH

"SEEING THAT THE RAKSHASA HAD ALMOST FAINTED, HE PLACED HIS KNEE ON THE WAIST OF KIRMIRA AND STRANGLED HIM.

"VIDURA ENDED HIS STORY:

O MONARCH! ON MY WAY, I SAW LYING THERE THE BODY OF KIRMIRA SLAIN BY BHEEMA. AND I HEARD OF THIS SUPER-HUMAN DEED OF BHEEMA FROM THE BRAHMANAS WHO WERE PRESENT THERE.

HEARING IN DETAIL HOW BHEEMA HAD KILLED KIRMIRA, KING DHRITARASHTRA HEAVED A DEEP SIGH AND BECAME IMMERSED IN THOUGHT.

"ON LEARNING THAT THE PANDAVAS HAD GONE INTO EXILE, THE BHOJAS, THE ANDHAKAS AND THE VRISHNIS CAME TO THE FOREST TO MEET THEM.

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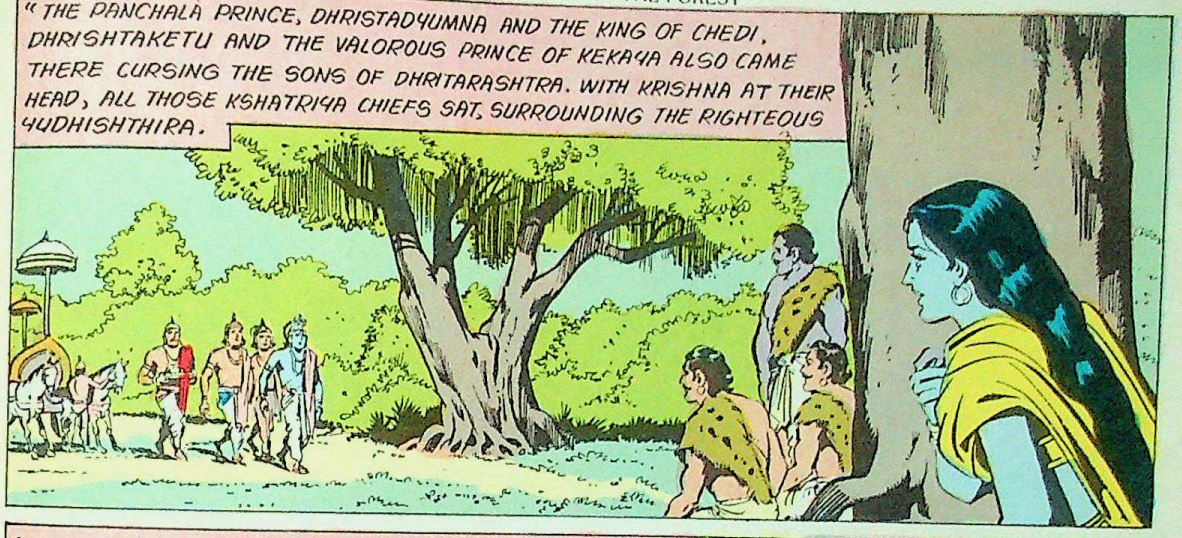

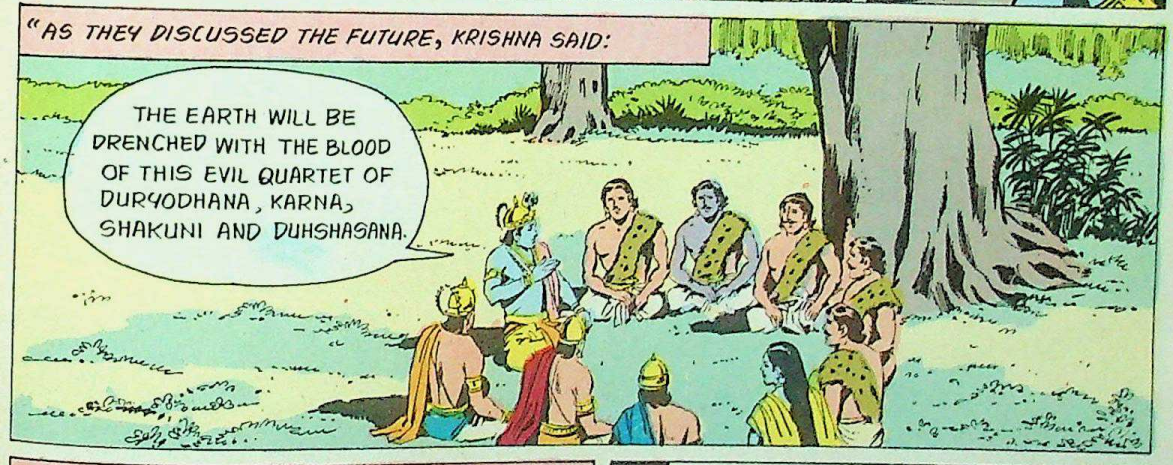

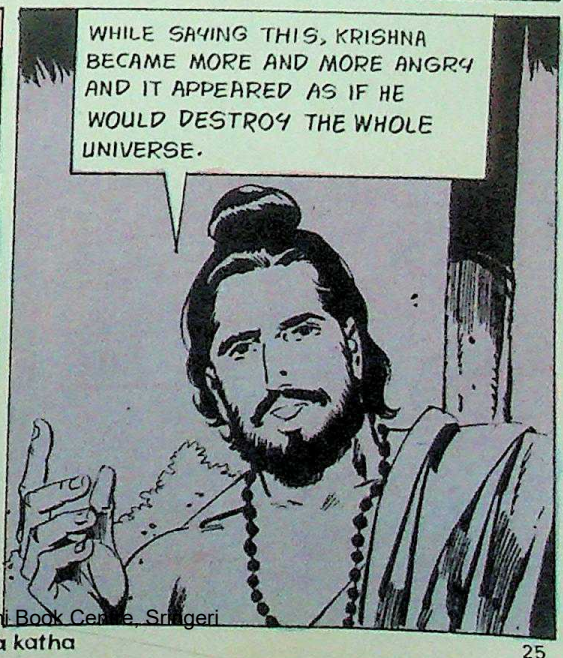

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"TURNING TO YUDHISHTHIRA, KRISHNA SAID:

IF I HAD BEEN PRESENT IN DWARAKA THEN, I WOULD HAVE STOPPED THE GAME OF DICE BEING PLAYED. WOMEN, GAMBLING, HUNTING AND DRINKING — THESE ARE THE FOUR VICES BORN OUT OF PASSION.

AFTER KRISHNA AND OTHERS HAD LEFT, THE PANDAVAS MOVED TO DWAITAVANA FOR SPENDING THEIR TWELVE YEARS OF EXILE. MANY SAGES AND THE FOREST-DWELLERS THRONGED THERE TO MEET THE PANDAVAS.

"ONE EVENING, THE PANDAVAS WERE DISCUSSING THEIR STATE OF AFFAIRS WHEN THE BEAUTIFUL DRAUPADI SAID TO YUDHISHTHIRA:

THE WICKED DURYODHANA HAS MADE US HOMELESS AND REDUCED US INTO INHABITANTS OF FOREST WITH ONLY DEER-SKIN TO WEAR. ISN'T YOUR MIND PAINED ON SEEING US THUS?

HOW IS IT THAT YOU DO NOT NURSE ANY ANGER AGAINST DURYODHANA?

IT IS CONTRARY TO THE NATURE OF A KSHATRIYA.

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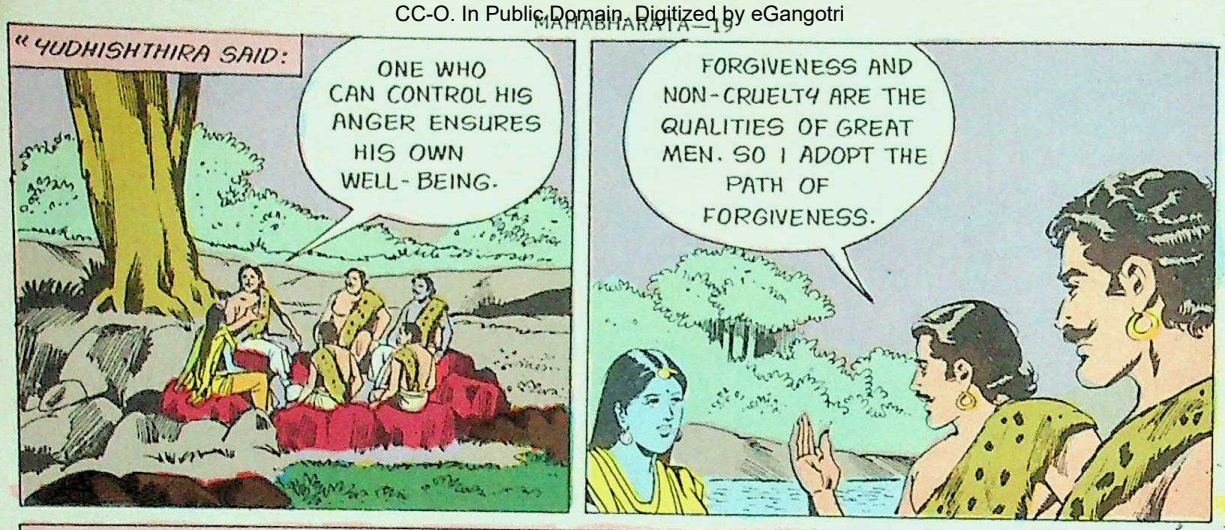

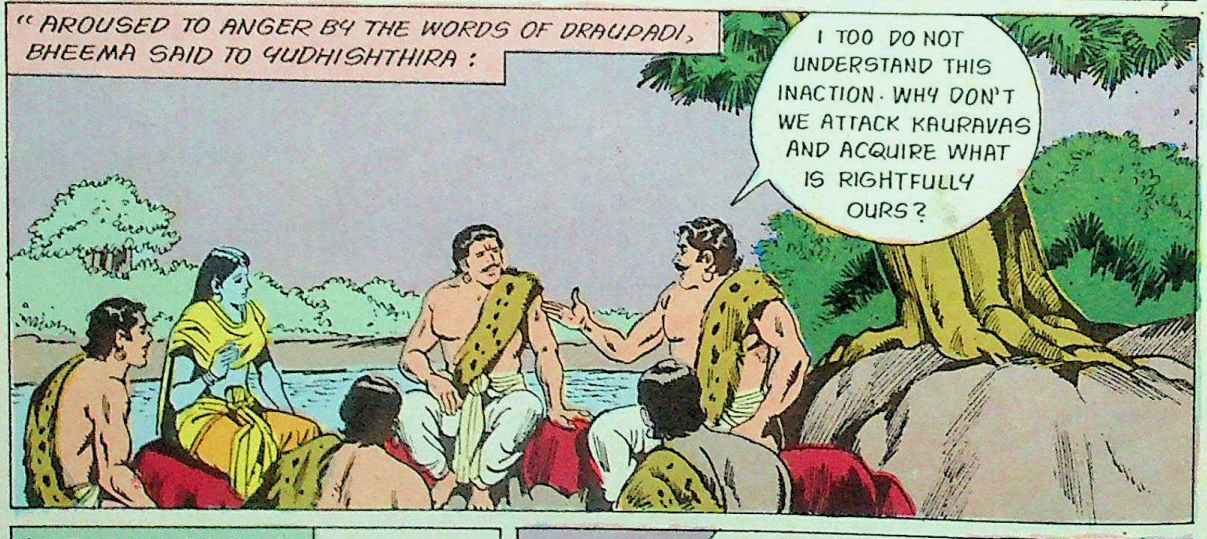

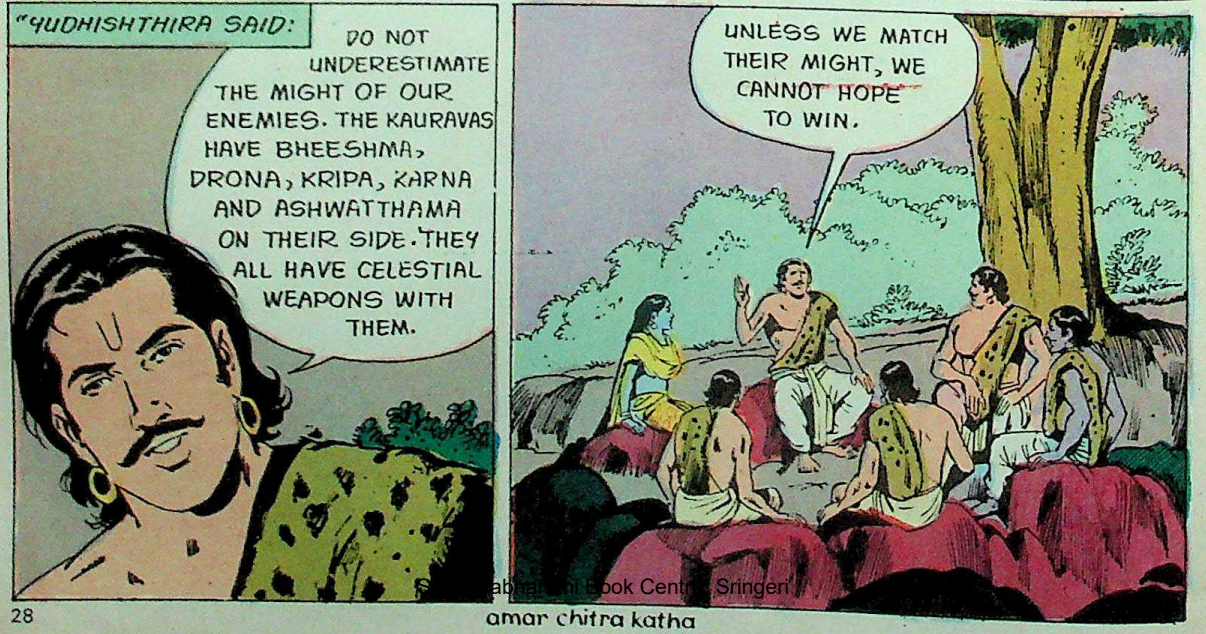

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"WHEN THE PANDAVAS WERE CONVERSING THUS, THE GREAT SAGE VYASA APPEARED BEFORE THEM. AFTER THE PANDAVAS PAID THEIR OBEISANCE TO HIM, HE SAID:

AFTER READING YOUR MIND THROUGH THE POWER OF MEDITATION I HAVE COME TO YOU TO FREE YOUR MIND FROM THE FEAR YOU HAVE OF BHEESHMA AND OTHERS.

"HE THEN CALLED YUDHISHTHIRA ASIDE AND SAID:

TAKE THIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE NAMED PRATISMRITI, OBTAINING WHICH THE MIGHTY ARJUNA WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS.

LET ARJUNA HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE AND WORSHIP SHIVA AND INDRA FOR WEAPONS THAT WILL MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO THINK OF LIVING IN SOME FOREST OTHER THAN THIS.

Sri Vi

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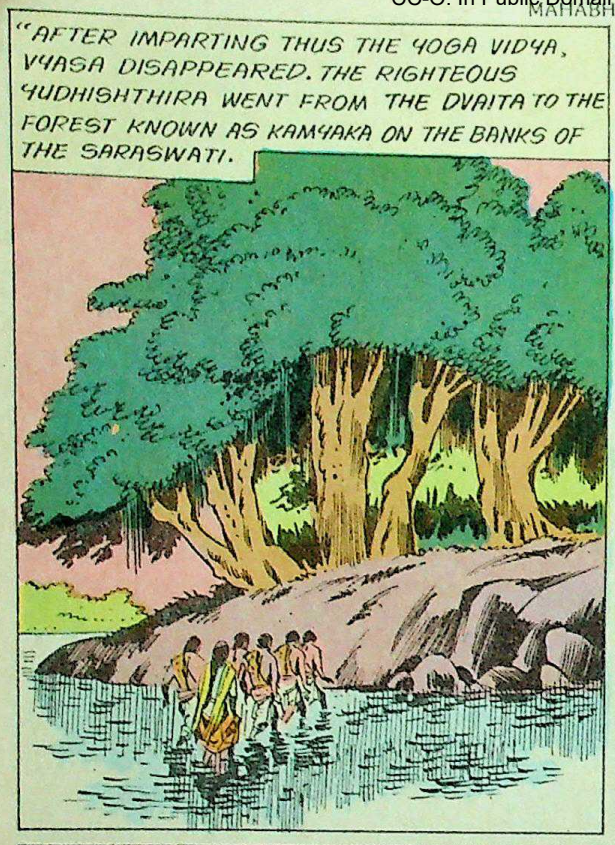

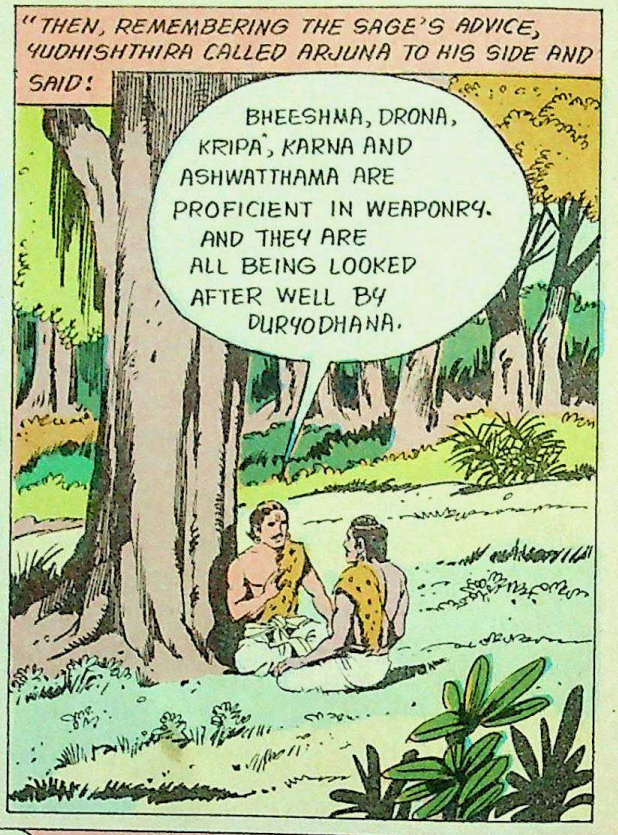

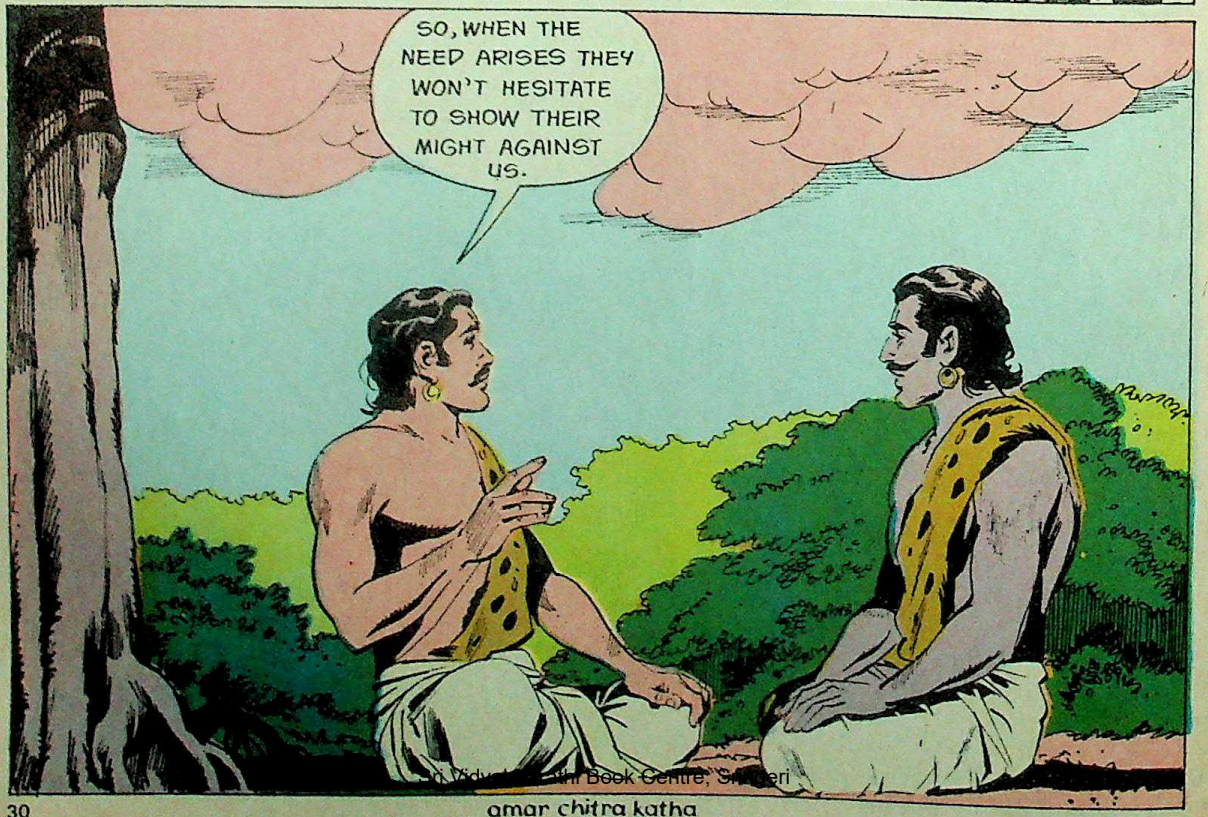

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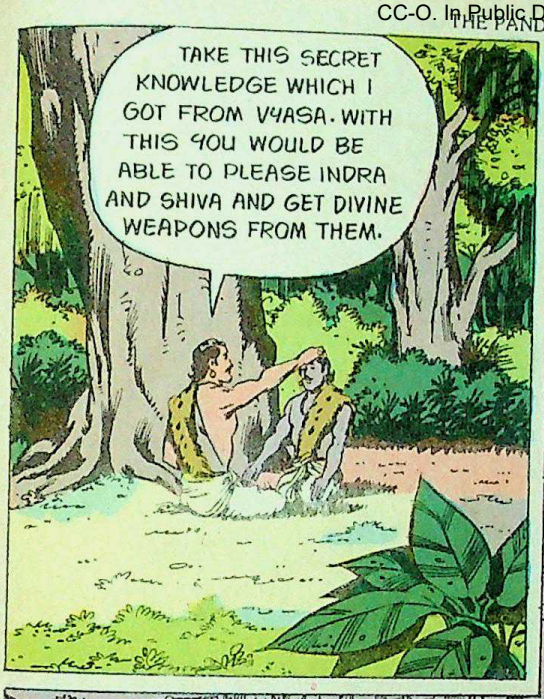

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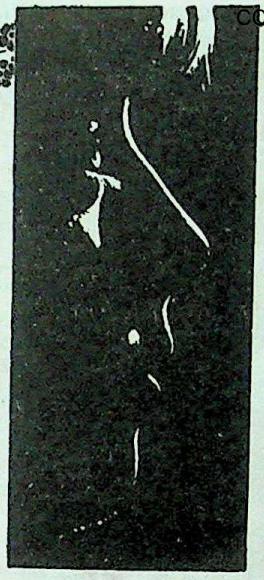

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